

# **Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment: Lichfield and Tamworth**

**Final report**

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## About the Authors

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

## Study Team

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

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

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## Glossary

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

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

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

## Executive summary

### The study

1. The Housing Act 2004 placed a duty upon local authorities to produce assessments of accommodation need for Gypsies and Travellers. In 2007, the Universities of Salford and Birmingham completed the *Southern Staffordshire and Northern Warwickshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment*. This assessment identified the accommodation need – in the form of residential pitch shortfall – of the population on an individual local authority level.
2. In July 2012 Lichfield District and Tamworth Borough Councils commissioned the Salford Housing & Urban Studies Unit (SHUSU) at the University of Salford to produce an updated Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment. The primary purpose of this assessment was to provide up to date information and data regarding the needs and requirements of the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities. This report presents the projection of the requirements for the period 2012 – 2028.
3. The assessment was undertaken by conducting a review of the following data sources:
  - The previous assessment of need and information submitted through the previous regional planning process;
  - The policy and guidance context;
  - The bi-annual Caravan Count;
  - Information from the local authorities with regards to pitch provision and supply;
  - Information from key stakeholders; and
  - A survey of thirty-eight Gypsy and Traveller households (twenty-one in Lichfield and seventeen in Tamworth).
4. From the estimation of a base population of twenty-five households in Lichfield, we consulted with twenty-one households; 84% of the estimated resident Gypsy and Traveller community.
5. From the estimation of a base population of twenty-one households in Tamworth, we consulted with seventeen households; 81% of the estimated Gypsy and Traveller community.
6. We believe that the sample is as representative as can be reasonably expected given the relatively hidden nature of the population and the timescale available for the consultation period. The fieldwork took place during a five week period in August and September 2012. The base date used in this assessment is the 20<sup>th</sup> August 2012.



## **Local accommodation provision**

7. There is no one source of information about the size of the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population across Lichfield and Tamworth. Our best estimate in relation to the population is that there are at least ninety-nine individuals or twenty-five households in Lichfield and eighty-two individuals or twenty-one households in Tamworth. There are no socially rented sites, unauthorised developments or Travelling Showpeople sites in Lichfield. The population in Lichfield was therefore found on one private site and in bricks and mortar accommodation. There are no sites (authorised or unauthorised) in Tamworth. The population in Tamworth was therefore found in bricks and mortar accommodation. The study team were aware of only one unauthorised encampment during the fieldwork period (in Lichfield).

## **Characteristics of local Gypsies and Travellers**

8. The survey of Gypsies and Travellers identified some of the important characteristics of the local population.
  - The majority of Gypsies and Travellers living on the private authorised site, and in bricks and mortar accommodation, have strong and longstanding local connections.
  - The local population is dominated by Romany Gypsies (92%).
  - There was a mix of households who still travelled and those who no longer travelled.

## **Accommodation need and supply**

9. There are no signs that the growth in the Gypsy and Traveller population will slow significantly. Research from the Equalities and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has indicated that around 6,000 additional pitches for Gypsies and Travellers are immediately required to meet the current shortage of accommodation within England.
10. This study has taken a thorough assessment of the need arising from all accommodation types present at the time of the survey. As such this assessment of need should be regarded as a reasonable and robust assessment of need upon which to base planning decisions going forward. Sites developed after 20<sup>th</sup> August 2012 contributes to the need requirements detailed in the table below.

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

	<b>Gypsy and Traveller Pitch Need Total (No. of pitches)</b>	<b>Gypsy and Traveller Pitch Need Total (No. of pitches)</b>
	<b>Lichfield</b>	<b>Tamworth</b>
Current authorised residential provision (pitches)	9	0
<b>Residential need 2012 - 2017 (pitches)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>
Residential need 2017 –2022 (pitches)	0	0
Residential need 2022 –2028 (pitches)	1	0
<b>Residential need 2012 –2028 (pitches)</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>

11. It is recommended that this assessment of accommodation need is repeated in due course (circa 5 years) to ensure it remains as accurate as possible.
12. Numerical transit requirements have not been provided, although an indication of how provision for short-stay households could be made is detailed in the main report.

# 1. Introduction

## Background and scope

- 1.1 The Housing Act 2004 placed a duty upon local authorities to produce assessments of accommodation need for Gypsies and Travellers. In 2007, Lichfield and Tamworth commissioned a sub-regional assessment of need along with a number of other local authorities and this was published as the *Southern Staffordshire and Northern Warwickshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment*.<sup>1</sup> This assessment provided an overview of the accommodation and related needs and experiences of the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population across Southern Staffordshire and Northern Warwickshire. Crucially, it identified the accommodation need – in the form of residential pitch shortfall – of the population on an individual local authority level. For Lichfield, the assessment identified a need for eleven pitches over the period 2007-2012, with an additional eight pitches required between 2012 and 2026. For Tamworth, the assessment identified a need for six pitches over the period 2007-2012, with three additional pitches required between 2012 and 2026.
- 1.2 Planning guidance contained within Circular 01/2006 indicated that the district level requirements identified in Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments (GTAAs) were to be submitted to the Regional Planning Body (RPB) – in this case the West Midlands Regional Assembly – and a ‘strategic view’ of need taken. The intention was that these figures, once agreed, would be incorporated into the Regional Spatial Strategy which in turn would be adopted by each local authority’s local planning framework. The adopted West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy required that ‘development plans should ensure adequate provision is made for suitable sites to accommodate gypsies and other travellers’. This provision had to reflect demand shown by Caravan Count data and ‘any additional local information’. The West Midlands RSS Interim Statement looked at the distribution of existing pitches and pitch requirements across the region and diverted some of the requirement from areas which already had large levels of provision to those with none or low levels<sup>2</sup>. For Lichfield, the Interim Statement allocated fourteen pitches to Lichfield and ten pitches to Tamworth between 2007 and 2017 (with a need for five transit pitches in each area over the same period).
- 1.3 In July 2010 the Secretary of State announced the revocation of Regional Strategies. Local authorities were advised to continue to develop local planning frameworks and, where these had already been adopted, use the adopted Development Plan Documents as the local planning framework.
- 1.4 In early 2012 a revised policy for the planning of Gypsy and Traveller sites was released by CLG replacing previous guidance in this area<sup>3</sup>.

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

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

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

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

1.5 In July 2012 Lichfield District and Tamworth Borough Councils commissioned the Salford Housing & Urban Studies Unit (SHUSU) at the University of Salford to produce a Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment. The primary purpose of this assessment was to provide up to date information and data regarding the needs and requirements of the local Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities. This report presents the projection of accommodation requirements for the following periods:

- 2012 – 2017 (0-5 years)
- 2017 – 2022 (6-10 years)
- 2022 – 2028 (11-16 years)

### Research approach

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

- Previous assessments of need and information submitted through the previous regional planning process
- The policy and guidance context
- The bi-annual Caravan Count
- Information from the local authorities with regards to pitch provision and supply
- Consultations (written and verbal) were undertaken in order to develop a clearer understanding about the context of provision and need within the two areas and to help inform the assessment of need. This information has been incorporated into this report in the appropriate places. This included information from: housing, planning, and education officers, the Police, and the Showmen's Guild of Great Britain.
- A survey of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople currently residing Lichfield and Tamworth. This has entailed the completion of interviews with **thirty-eight** households living in trailer-based and bricks and mortar accommodation across the two areas: **twenty-one in Lichfield** and **seventeen in Tamworth**. See Appendices for specific details of this sample and the research process.

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

- From the estimation of the base population in the two study areas a sample of around 84% has been achieved across Lichfield and a sample of around 81% has been achieved across Tamworth. The sample size for both areas in this localised assessment is far greater than the sample that was achieved in the previous

cross-boundary assessment (where two interviews were carried out in Lichfield and none in Tamworth). We believe that the sample is as representative as can be reasonably expected given the relatively hidden nature of the population and the timescale available for the consultation period.

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

## Structure of the report

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

- **Chapter 2** looks at the past, present and emerging policy context in the area of Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation.
- **Chapter 3** looks at the trends in caravan numbers evident from the bi-annual count of caravans and estimates the size of the local Gypsy and Traveller community.
- **Chapter 4** discusses current authorised provision across the two areas.
- **Chapter 5** looks at the level of planning applications made in Lichfield and Tamworth and the presence of unauthorised sites.
- **Chapter 6** looks at the numbers of Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar accommodation as well as drawing upon the views of households obtained through the survey.
- **Chapter 7** looks at a range of issues including the movement intentions of the sample, the formation of new households, the concealment of existing ones and the accommodation preferences of the Gypsy and Traveller population.
- **Chapter 8** looks briefly at the issue of Travelling Showpeople.
- **Chapter 9** provides the numerical assessment of accommodation need for Lichfield and Tamworth.
- **Chapter 10** provides an analysis of the need for transit provision for Lichfield and Tamworth.
- **Chapter 11** provides concluding comments on the assessment.

1.9 The base date for this assessment is the 20<sup>th</sup> August 2012.

## 2. Policy context

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

### Planning policy 2006-2011

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

- ensure that Gypsies and Travellers have fair access to suitable accommodation, education, health and welfare provision;
- reduce the number of unauthorised encampments and developments;
- increase significantly the number of Gypsy and Traveller sites in appropriate locations and with planning permission in order to address under-provision by 2011;
- protect the traditional travelling way of life of Gypsies and Travellers;
- underline the importance of assessing accommodation need;
- promote private site provision; and,
- avoid Gypsies and Travellers becoming homeless, where eviction from unauthorised sites occurs and where there is no alternative accommodation.

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

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

### Regional planning policy

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

- 2.6 The adopted West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy required that 'development plans should ensure adequate provision is made for suitable sites to accommodate gypsies and other travellers'. The West Midlands RSS Interim Statement looked at the distribution of existing pitches and pitch requirements across the region and diverted some of the requirement from areas which already had large levels of provision to those with none or low levels<sup>4</sup>. For Lichfield, the Interim Statement allocated fourteen pitches to Lichfield and ten pitches to Tamworth between 2007 and 2017 (with a need for five transit pitches in each area over the same period).
- 2.7 In July 2010 the Secretary of State announced the revocation of Regional Strategies. Local authorities were advised to continue to develop local planning frameworks and, where these had already been adopted, use the adopted Development Plan Documents as the local planning framework. Specific guidance was provided in July 2010 in the form of a letter from the Chief Planner in order to assist in the determination of provision for Gypsy and Traveller sites.<sup>5</sup> With respect to the needs of Gypsies and Travellers this guidance stated that:

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

### **Current planning policy**

- 2.8 The government has formulated a new planning framework for England and Wales in the form of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Among the many significant changes to the planning system the NPPF places greater emphasis of the role communities can play in the planning process. The NPPF also contains a presumption in favour of sustainable development and makes provisions for the protection of the Green Belt.
- 2.9 The specific planning framework that will be implemented for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation provision has also been released. This replaces Circulars 01/06 and 04/2007.<sup>6</sup> This states that:

*Planning law requires that applications for planning permission must be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. This policy must be taken into account in the preparation of development plans, and is a material consideration in*

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<sup>4</sup> West Midlands Regional Assembly (2010) *West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy, Phase Three Revision Interim Policy Statements and Policy Recommendations, March 2010.*

<sup>5</sup> Quartermain, S. (2010) *Chief Planning Officer Letter: Revocation of Regional Strategies*, online at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/1631904.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> CLG (2012) *Planning for traveller sites* <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/2113371.pdf>

*planning decisions. Local planning authorities preparing plans for and taking decisions on traveller sites should also have regard to the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework so far as relevant.*

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

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

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

- that local planning authorities should make their own assessment of need for the purposes of planning;
- to ensure that local planning authorities, working collaboratively, develop fair and effective strategies to meet need through the identification of land for sites;
- to encourage local planning authorities to plan for sites over a reasonable timescale;
- that plan-making and decision-taking should protect Green Belt from inappropriate development;
- to promote more private traveller site provision while recognising that there will always be those travellers who cannot provide their own sites;
- that plan-making and decision-taking should aim to reduce the number of unauthorised developments and encampments and make enforcement more effective;
- for local planning authorities to ensure that their Local Plan includes fair, realistic and inclusive policies;
- to increase the number of traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply;
- to reduce tensions between settled and traveller communities in plan-making and planning decisions;
- to enable provision of suitable accommodation from which travellers can access education, health, welfare and employment infrastructure; and,
- for local planning authorities to have due regard to the protection of local amenity and local environment.

2.12 Policy A of 'Planning Policy for Traveller Sites' states that in assembling the evidence base necessary to support their planning approach, local planning authorities should:

- a) pay particular attention to early and effective community engagement with both settled and traveller communities (including discussing travellers'
- b) accommodation needs with travellers themselves, their representative bodies and local support groups);



- c) co-operate with travellers, their representative bodies and local support groups, other local authorities and relevant interest groups to prepare and maintain an up-to-date understanding of the likely permanent and transit accommodation needs of their areas over the lifespan of their development plan working collaboratively with neighbouring local planning authorities; and
- d) use a robust evidence base to establish accommodation needs to inform the preparation of local plans and make planning decisions.

2.13 This accommodation assessment is one of the main components in the evidence base required in the preparation of the planning approach for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation for Lichfield District and Tamworth Borough Councils. It has been developed through engagement with Gypsies, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople in the two authorities and through discussion with key stakeholders, in accordance with national policy.

### **Defining Gypsies and Travellers**

2.14 Defining Gypsies and Travellers is not straightforward. Different definitions are used for a variety of purposes. At a very broad level the term 'Gypsies and Travellers' is used by non-Gypsies and Travellers to encompass a variety of groups and individuals who have in common a tradition or practice of nomadism. More narrowly both Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers are recognised minority ethnic groupings.

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

*(a) persons with a cultural tradition of nomadism or of living in a caravan; and*

*(b) all other persons of a nomadic habit of life, whatever their race or origin, including:*

*i. such persons who, on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependant's educational or health needs or old age, have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently; and*

*ii. members of an organised group of travelling showpeople or circus people (whether or not travelling together as such).*

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

*Persons of nomadic habit of life whatever their race or origin, including such persons who on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependants' educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, but excluding members of an organised group of travelling show people or circus people travelling together as such.*

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

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

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

2.19 The new planning policy document uses the term 'traveller' to refer to both Gypsy and Traveller communities and populations of Travelling Showpeople. This has been used as it is recognised that this definition is "...more pragmatic and wider and enables local planning authorities to understand the possible future accommodation needs of this group and plan strategically to meet those needs".<sup>7</sup>

### **Housing/accommodation need**

2.20 Crucially, for Gypsies and Travellers, the definition of housing need is varied slightly to acknowledge the different contexts in which members of these communities live. The general definition of housing need is "households who are unable to access suitable housing without some financial assistance", with housing demand defined as "the quantity of housing that households are willing and able to buy or rent."<sup>8</sup>

2.21 In recognising that in many cases these definitions are inappropriate for Gypsies and Travellers, the guidance on producing Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments<sup>9</sup> refers to distinctive requirements that necessitate moving beyond the limitations of the definition for both caravan dwellers and those in bricks and mortar housing. For caravan dwelling households, need may take the form of those:<sup>10</sup>

- who have no authorised site on which to reside;
- whose existing site accommodation is overcrowded or unsuitable, but who are unable to obtain larger or more suitable accommodation; and
- who contain suppressed households who are unable to set up separate family units and are unable to access a place on an authorised site, or obtain or afford land to develop one.

2.22 In the context of bricks and mortar dwelling households, need may take the form of:

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

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<sup>7</sup> CLG (2011) *Planning for traveller sites*, Consultation Paper, April, London: HMSO, online at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/1886164.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> ODPM (2006) *Definition of the term 'Gypsies and Travellers' for the purposes of the Housing Act 2004*. Consultation Paper, February, London: HMSO.

<sup>9</sup> GTAA guidance has been used in developing the methodology but variations to the approach have been made to take account of local circumstances, where considered appropriate.

<sup>10</sup> CLG (2007) *Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments – Guidance*, London: HMSO.

- 2.23 The needs presented in this report reflect both the definition of Gypsies and Travellers as used in the Housing Act 2004, which gives an overall strategic level of accommodation need, and the new planning policy which indicates the proportion of site-based need for operational purposes. It should also be noted that steps have been taken within this report to analyse need in the context of local and historic demand.
- 2.24 Housing need is assessed at the level of a single family unit or household (broadly a group of people who regularly live and eat together). On Gypsy and Traveller sites, this is assumed to equate to a 'pitch'; in housing, to a separate dwelling.

### **Defining a pitch**

- 2.25 There is no set definition for what constitutes a Gypsy and Traveller residential pitch. In the same way as in the settled community, Gypsies and Travellers require various accommodation sizes, depending on the number of family members.
- 2.26 The convention used in this report is that a pitch is the place on a Gypsy and Traveller site accommodating a single family/household. In some cases a single pitch may account for the entire site. The number of caravans that a household uses can be a single unit (trailer, touring caravan, static, chalet, etc.) or more. In order to ensure comparability across accommodation types it is important to determine a convention when translating caravan numbers into pitches/households.
- 2.27 The convention in the last round of GTAAs, and an approach advocated by CLG guidance, was the use of a national average 1.7 caravan to pitch ratio<sup>11</sup>. In this assessment, from a base of six trailer-based interviewees, a total six caravans are owned / used; suggesting a one caravan to pitch ratio across the sample. Although, from experience elsewhere, this is a relatively high caravan to pitch ratio it appears to be the accommodation situation for the few trailer based households in the study area. Therefore throughout this assessment a one caravan to pitch ratio is used to determine need as it provides a more locally informed approach.

### **Conventions**

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

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<sup>11</sup> CLG (2007) *Preparing Regional Spatial Strategy Reviews on Gypsies and Travellers by Regional Planning Bodies*, London: CLG.

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

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

#### Caravan numbers and trends from the Caravan Count

3.2 The bi-annual Caravan Count provides a snapshot of the local context in terms of the scale and distribution of caravan numbers across Lichfield and Tamworth. The Count provides a useful starting point in assessing the current picture and recent trends. Indeed, in the absence of other datasets it is virtually the only source of information on Gypsy and Traveller caravan data. However, there are well documented issues with the robustness of the count.<sup>12</sup> Such issues include: the 'snapshot' nature of the data, the inclusion of caravans and not households, the exclusion of Travelling Showpeople<sup>13</sup>, and the exclusion of Gypsies and Travellers in bricks and mortar accommodation. It should be noted that the analysis contained in this report should be considered a more robust assessment of the current situation with regards to the local population than the Caravan Count.

3.3 Tables 3.1 and 3.2 provide the distribution of caravan numbers for Lichfield and Tamworth respectively since January 2006. These tables show the following:

- **Lichfield** - there have been no caravans recorded on socially rented sites over the period, with only a small number of caravans recorded on private authorised sites and unauthorised developments. Furthermore, very few caravans have been recorded on unauthorised encampments over the period, with the majority being recorded during the winter counts (January). The total number of caravans recorded across all types of sites appears to have decreased in more recent years.
- **Tamworth** - there have been no caravans recorded on any type of site over the period.

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<sup>12</sup> Niner, P. (2002) *Review of the ODPM Caravan Count*, London: ODPM.

<sup>13</sup> The January 2011 and January 2012 counts included a count of Travelling Showpeople caravans for the first time. However, as this is not comparable with previous years and as nil caravans have been identified this is excluded from the tables in this report.

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

Count	Authorised sites (with planning permission)				Unauthorised sites (without planning permission)				Total
	Socially rented	Private			Unauthorised developments		Unauthorised encampments		
		Temporary permission	Permanent permission	All private	'Tolerated'	'Not tolerated'	'Tolerated'	'Not Tolerated'	
Jan 12	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	2	6
Jul 11	0	0	4	4	0	1	0	0	5
Jan 11	0	0	6	6	0	3	0	0	9
Jul 10	0	0	7	7	0	3	0	0	10
Jan 10 <sup>14</sup>	0	0	2	2	8	3	0	0	13
Jul 09	0	-	-	2	6	2	0	11	21
Jan 09	0	-	-	2	9	0	0	0	11
Jul 08	0	-	-	2	4	3	0	0	9
Jan 08	0	-	-	2	0	9	0	3	14
Jul 07	0	-	-	2	11	0	0	0	13
Jan 07	0	-	-	0	0	11	0	3	14
Jul 06	0	-	-	0	0	9	0	0	9
Jan 06	0	-	-	0	0	8	0	0	8

Table 3.2: Caravan numbers across accommodation types within Tamworth 2006 - 2012

Count	Authorised sites (with planning permission)				Unauthorised sites (without planning permission)				Total
	Socially rented	Private			Unauthorised developments		Unauthorised encampments		
		Temporary permission	Permanent permission	All private	'Tolerated'	'Not tolerated'	'Tolerated'	'Not Tolerated'	
Jan 12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jul 11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jan 11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jul 10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jan 10 <sup>15</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jul 09	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jan 09	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jul 08	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jan 08	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jul 07	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jan 07	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jul 06	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jan 06	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>14</sup> Please note that data which breaks down private sites into permanent/temporary permission was not available or not required to be collected until this time.

<sup>15</sup> *ibid.*

## The size of the local Gypsy and Traveller community

- 3.4 For most minority ethnic communities, presenting data about the size of the community in question is usually relatively straightforward (with the exception of communities which have large numbers of irregular migrants and migrant workers, etc. amongst them). However, for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, one of the most difficult issues is providing accurate information on the size of the population. As a result, we have used information provided by the local authorities and key stakeholders, together with our survey findings, in order to provide a best estimate as to the size of the local Gypsy and Traveller population at the time of the assessment.
- 3.5 As highlighted in Chapter 1, this localised assessment has achieved an increased sample from the previous cross-boundary GTAA.<sup>16</sup> Tables 3.3 and 3.4 present the estimation of the size of the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population in Lichfield and Tamworth respectively. Using the information available we estimate that there are at least ninety-nine individuals or twenty-five households in Lichfield and eighty-two individuals or twenty-one households in Tamworth.

Table 3.3: Gypsy and Traveller population based in Lichfield

Type of accommodation	Families/households (based on 1 pitch/house = 1 household)	Individuals	Derivation
Private sites	6	17	Based on household information provided by the six households on the site at the time of the assessment
Bricks and mortar	19 <sup>17</sup>	82	Number of families estimated to live in the area multiplied by average household size from the survey (4.3)
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>99</b>	

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

<sup>17</sup> We did not receive any information regarding the accurate size of the Gypsy and Traveller bricks and mortar-based population. It is generally agreed that there are now more Gypsies and Travellers living in conventional housing in the UK than living on sites or unauthorised encampments. The Commission for Racial Equality's 2006 report *Common Ground: Equality, good race relations and sites for Gypsies and Irish Travellers* suggested that the housed population could be around three times the trailer-based population. Using this multiplier may be excessive in the absence of definitive evidence of the size of the population. The estimate of the base population of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople living in houses is based on the assumption that the number of interviews with bricks and mortar households that were secured was a minimum of 75% of the housed population. In a number of GTAAs we have carried out in other areas, an assumption has been made that survey samples have included around 50% of the housed population. This has been based on a range of information, including that provided by stakeholders, as well as taking into account the fieldwork period and how many additional interviews the Community Interviewers could have achieved with more time. In relation to the fieldwork in Lichfield and Tamworth, the Community Interviewers indicated that they had exhausted achievable bricks and mortar interviews through site-based contacts and snowball sampling. However, it is recognised that the survey is unlikely to have captured *all* bricks and mortar residents. It is therefore reasonable to assume that the sample constitutes three quarters of the housed population.

Table 3.4: Gypsy and Traveller population based in Tamworth

Type of accommodation	Families/households (based on 1 pitch/house = 1 household)	Individuals	Derivation
Bricks and mortar	21 <sup>18</sup>	82	Number of families estimated to live in the area multiplied by average household size from the survey (3.9)
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>82</b>	

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<sup>18</sup> *ibid.*

## **4. Authorised social and private sites**

- 4.1 A certain degree of caution needs to be taken when extrapolating the characteristics, trends and needs of the Gypsy and Traveller population from the Caravan Counts and other such data alone. In order to provide more specific information on the local Gypsy and Traveller population, the remaining chapters draw upon the information provided by Lichfield District and Tamworth Borough Councils on site provision within the two authorities as well as information obtained through a survey of Gypsy and Traveller households.

### **Socially rented sites**

- 4.2 There are currently no socially rented sites within Lichfield or Tamworth. Both authorities also indicated that there were no current plans to provide local authority Gypsy and Traveller sites over the next five years.

### **Authorised private sites**

- 4.3 There are currently two authorised private sites within the district of Lichfield. One site has eight pitches and was reported to be owner occupied with some rented pitches. The other site has one pitch. It was reported by Lichfield District Council that this site was currently vacant following an incident on the site, which involved the site being cleared (i.e. fencing, hedging and surfacing was taken up). The residents of this site had been supported into bricks and mortar accommodation. The Council indicated that this site was currently not usable due to the damage that had been done and the subsequent 'fly tipping' that had occurred; however, it was suggested that it would not be too onerous to bring the site back into use. The Council indicated that the number of sites and pitches had increased over the last five years and expected the number of private sites to increase within the district over the next five years.
- 4.4 There are currently no authorised private sites in the borough of Tamworth. The Council indicated that they did not know if the number of private sites would increase within the borough over the next five years.

### **Authorised private sites: survey findings**

- 4.5 A total of six people were interviewed on the site in Lichfield that was currently occupied; four respondents owned their pitch while two rented. The residents were mostly Romany Gypsies (five respondents); however, one respondent described themselves as Irish Traveller.

### *Views on size*

- 4.6 All six respondents owned a single caravan and all indicated that they currently had enough space.



*Previous accommodation experiences*

4.7 When asked why they had come to live on their current site, people made reference to a range of individual reasons (see Table 4.1 below).

Table 4.1: Main reason for moving to the site

<b>Reason</b>	<b>No</b>
To be near family / friends	2
Born / raised here	1
Land / pitch was available to buy	1
Work available in the area	1
Lack of sites	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>

4.8 When asked what type of accommodation they had immediately before their current site, two respondents indicated that they had been on the site all their adult life. The remaining respondents made reference to individual types of accommodation and locations:

- One respondent had previously lived on a transit site in Stoke-on-Trent. They had left this previous site so they could travel. They were temporary visitors to the current site with a base elsewhere (see paragraph 4.11 below).
- One respondent had previously lived on a private site with temporary planning permission in Birmingham. They indicated that there was no particular reason for leaving this site; however, in another question they indicated that they had moved to the site to spend time with relatives.
- One respondent had previously lived on a residential council site in Warwickshire. They indicated that they had moved due to site conditions. They had been living on their current site for more than ten years.
- One respondent had previously lived in bricks and mortar accommodation in Tamworth. They indicated that they had left that accommodation as they want to live with their family. They had been living on their current site for more than ten years.

*Accommodating visitors on their current site*

4.9 Five respondents reported that they have visitors to stay with them on a short term basis. This was primarily family and friends and it was indicated that they would visit with one or two trailers and stay anywhere from two weeks to two months. The remaining respondent indicated that they did not know if visitors came to stay on the site; however, they were temporary visitors to the site (with a base elsewhere). None of the respondents indicated that hosting visitors was a problem for them.

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

- 4.10 Nearly all respondents (five) had lived in the general area for ten years or more. The main reason for staying in Lichfield was being born / raised here (four respondents) (see Table 4.2 below).

Table 4.2: Main reason for staying in Lichfield

<b>Reason</b>	<b>No</b>
Born/raised here	4
Family living in the area	1
Work available in the area	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>

One respondent indicated that they had been in the area between one and six months. This was the respondent who was staying in Lichfield due to work.

- 4.11 With regards to length of time on their current site, four respondents had lived there for ten years or more. Two respondents indicated that they had been on the site for between one and three months. One of these was the respondent referred to above who was staying in the area for work purposes. They indicated that this was the first time that they had been in the Lichfield area. They owned a private site elsewhere in the UK, which they used as a base during the winter. The other respondent had previously been staying on private sites in Birmingham and Burton on Trent. They did not have a base elsewhere and had moved onto the site to spend time with their family.

### *Travelling experiences*

- 4.12 Three respondents indicated that they never travelled. One respondent indicated that this was due to their or a family members' health and one respondent indicated that it was due to their or a family members' older age. Both of these respondents had stopped travelling more than ten years ago. The remaining respondent did not provide a reason as to why they did not travel; however, the last time they had travelled had been around three months ago. This was the respondent referred to in paragraph 4.11 above who had moved on the site to spend time with their family.
- 4.13 With regards to the three who did travel, two travelled a few times a year. When asked where they tended to go, one respondent travelled to some of the main fairs that took place each year (e.g. Appleby, Stow, Cambridge) while the other respondent indicated that they mainly travelled to Tamworth, Stow and Essex . One respondent travelled just once a year (to Appleby Fair).
- 4.14 All three respondents had travelled in the last twelve months. As above, attending fairs was one of the reasons for travelling; however, one respondent also made reference to travelling for work and to visit relatives. With regards to where people stayed while travelling, when attending the fairs people stayed at designated fair sites. However, the respondent who travelled for work and to visit relatives also made reference to staying with friends/relatives on private sites.

### *Experiences of living in bricks and mortar accommodation*

- 4.15 Only one respondent indicated that they had lived in a house at some point during their life. This was the respondent referred to in paragraph 4.8 above who had lived in a house in Tamworth. They had moved into a house due to a family member's ill health; however, they described the experience of living in a house as poor. They had left the property to move onto their current site so they could be back with their family.

### *Employment*

- 4.16 Five respondents were currently self employed, while one respondent was retired. With regards to where respondents mostly worked, two mostly worked in Tamworth, two mostly worked across the West Midlands, and one mostly worked in Lichfield. None of the respondents indicated that they had any site needs relating to work.
- 4.17 Respondents were asked if they had ever experienced any issues or problems accessing employment. One respondent said yes and made the following comments:

*"If they know you are Travellers they don't like you to work for them, but it's the same all over"*

### *Health services and issues*

- 4.18 The respondents were asked if they had access to the following health services: GP/health centre; health visitor; maternity care; A & E; and dentist. All respondents indicated that they had sufficient access to these services; where households said that they did not currently have access, this was because the service was not relevant to them (for example, maternity care). One respondent indicated that they had issues with accessing local services; however, this related to being temporary visitors to the area and they made the following comments:

*"We are not in the area long enough. But if we did need the doctors we can go as temporary. We have our own doctors back home".*

- 4.19 Respondents were also asked to indicate if they, or anyone in their household, needed support for any of the following reasons: frail elderly; a medical condition; a physical disability; a learning disability; a mental health problem; or a sensory disability. Two respondents indicated that they or someone within their household required support: one respondent indicated that they and their spouse both have hearing aids; and one respondent indicated that they needed support due to being frail elderly and having a medical condition (this respondent was aged 60 – 74).

### *Satisfaction with local area*

4.20 Respondents were also asked to indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied they were with their local area (Lichfield) as a place to live. Five respondents said they were very satisfied. When asked to elaborate on their response, people made reference to liking the people in the area, liking the site, but also being born in this area. One respondent made the following comments:

*“I like this site. My cousin owns it and my family come and go, so I get to see them all the time”*

The remaining respondent was fairly satisfied with the local area. They made the following comments:

*“We pull in this area most years as we travel around for the summer. It’s good for work and the kids love the park here”*

## 5. Planning and unauthorised sites

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

### Current policy

- 5.2 Lichfield District Council indicated that their existing development plan does not include a policy towards Gypsy and Traveller sites (*Lichfield District Local Plan 1998*). However, it was reported that the emerging Local Plan contains relevant policies relating to site selection and identification (*Lichfield District Local Plan: Our strategy (July 2012)*)<sup>19</sup>:

*Policy H3: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople*

*Where a need is identified, sites for Gypsies and Travellers and travelling showpeople will be allocated within the Local Plan: Allocations document. The location of residential and transit sites will be informed by the criteria set out below having regard to other Local Plan policies:*

- *the site is within or adjacent to Lichfield, Burntwood or a Key Rural Settlement or close to the A5 or A38 corridors;*
- *in the Key Rural Settlements, the proposal must be of an appropriate size so as not to put unacceptable strain on infrastructure;*
- *the site is large enough to provide for adequate on-site facilities for parking, storage, play and residential amenity as appropriate and dependent on the number of pitches;*
- *vehicular and pedestrian access to the site is safe and reasonably convenient;*
- *the site is located within Flood Zones 1 or 2;*
- *the site will be able to be landscaped and screened to provide privacy for occupiers and to maintain visual amenity within the landscape/townscape; and*

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<sup>19</sup> Lichfield District Local Plan: Our strategy (July 2012), online at: [http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/downloads/file/4161/lichfield\\_district\\_local\\_plan\\_strategy\\_july\\_2012](http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/downloads/file/4161/lichfield_district_local_plan_strategy_july_2012)

- *development of the site should protect the local amenity and environment and will have no significant detrimental impact to adjoining properties or neighbouring land by virtue of noise and other disturbance caused by movement of vehicles to and from the site.*

*Applications for new sites and refurbishment of existing sites must meet the design guidelines detailed in National Guidance*

5.3 Tamworth Borough Council indicated that their existing development did include a policy towards Gypsy and Traveller sites (*Tamworth Local Plan 2001 - 2011*)<sup>20</sup>:

*Policy HSG16: Provision of Accommodation for Gypsies/Travellers*

*In seeking any possible Gypsy/Traveller sites, or in determining any planning applications for Gypsy/Traveller sites, the Borough Council will have regard to the following factors:*

- i. The impact of the proposals on the adjacent land uses and the amenity of any neighbouring residents;*
- ii. The visual impact of the proposal, landscaping and screening. Some sites may require substantial landscaping in order that they can be well screened from all sides;*
- iii. The provision of satisfactory vehicle access to the road network and the ability of the local road network to accommodate safely any traffic generated;*
- iv. The provision of adequate parking, turning and servicing facilities within the site;*
- v. The consistency of the proposal with agricultural, archaeological, environmental, green network and Green Belt policies.*

It was reported that the emerging Local Plan also contains relevant policies relating to Gypsies and Travellers (*Tamworth Borough Council Local Plan 2006-2028, June 2012*)<sup>21</sup>:

*CP7 Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople*

*The Council will work with surrounding Local Authorities, the County Council, landowners, Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople communities and other interested parties to enable the development of pitches in accordance with the sub regional Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTAA) as below:*

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<sup>20</sup> Tamworth Local Plan 2001-2011, online at:  
[http://www.tamworth.gov.uk/PDF/saved\\_policies\\_local\\_plan\\_July\\_2009.pdf](http://www.tamworth.gov.uk/PDF/saved_policies_local_plan_July_2009.pdf)

<sup>21</sup> Tamworth Borough Council Local Plan 2006-2028, June 2012, online at:  
[http://www.tamworth.gov.uk/files/Local\\_Plan\\_2006\\_2028\\_lowres.pdf](http://www.tamworth.gov.uk/files/Local_Plan_2006_2028_lowres.pdf)

Site size	2007-2012	2012-2016	2016-2021	2021-2028	2007-2028
Residential pitches	6	1	1	1	9
Transit pitches	5				5
Travelling Showpeople					0

*Proposals will be expected to contribute to the creation of sustainable mixed communities and have regard to the existing levels of provision and identified need. In addition to the relevant national guidance, the following considerations will be taken into account in the determination of locations for Gypsy and Traveller sites:*

- a) There should be safe and convenient vehicular and pedestrian access to the site;*
- b) The site must be large enough to provide for adequate on site facilities for parking, storage, play and residential amenity dependent on the number of pitches;*
- c) The development should provide the appropriate infrastructure required, both on and off site.*
- d) There should be convenient access to schools, shops and other local facilities, preferably pedestrian, cycle or by public transport;*
- e) The site should be able to be landscaped and screened to provide privacy for occupiers and maintain visual amenity; and*
- f) It should have no significant detrimental impact upon the residential amenity of adjoining properties or neighbouring land.*

5.4 Neither Council indicated that any sites were currently being considered as suitable for Gypsy and Traveller site development.

### **Planning applications**

5.5 Lichfield District Council had received two planning applications since 2006. These related to the two private sites referred to in paragraph 4.3. The first application was in 2010, granting permission to increase a site from two pitches to eight pitches. The second application was in 2011, and related to the development of the one pitch site that was currently vacant.

5.6 Tamworth Borough Council had not received any planning applications for the development of Gypsy and Traveller sites since 2006.

### **Unauthorised development of Gypsy and Traveller sites**

5.7 Lichfield District Council indicated that there were currently no unauthorised developments within the district. They had experienced the unauthorised development of one site of the last five years. It was reported that a planning application was received for a one pitch site (adjacent to the M6 Toll, Hammerwich), which was refused due to impact on Green Belt, the site not being in a suitable location and in relation to the residential amenity for the site occupants. The Council

did not know whether or not the number of unauthorised developments would increase over the next five years.

- 5.8 Tamworth Borough Council indicated that there were currently no unauthorised developments within the borough. They had not experienced the unauthorised development of sites of the last five years, nor did they expect the number of unauthorised developments to increase over the next five years.

### Unauthorised encampments

5.9 The presence and incidence of unauthorised encampments is often a significant issue that impacts upon local authorities, landowners, Gypsies and Travellers and the settled population. Due to the nature of unauthorised encampments (i.e. unpredictability, seasonal fluctuations, etc.), it is often very difficult to grasp a comprehensive picture of need for residential and/or transit accommodation without considering a range of interconnected issues. However, as seen in Chapter 3 the level of encampments recorded in the Caravan Count has been nil in Tamworth over the last five years, with only a small number recorded for Lichfield over the same period. During the assessment period we only received notification of one unauthorised encampment (within Lichfield). We were unable to include this encampment within the assessment due to the timing of the encampment<sup>22</sup> and are therefore unable to assess the residential or transit need arising from this encampment. It is possible that the timing of this assessment (i.e. outside of traditional travelling seasons) and duration available for the fieldwork may have impacted on the ability to include households accommodated on unauthorised encampments.

5.10 Lichfield District Council indicated that they have a written policy for managing unauthorised encampments and that they were party to a joint agreement/protocol with other local authorities in relation to managing unauthorised encampments. It was indicated that any of the following services would normally first make contact with Gypsies and Travellers on unauthorised encampments: an officer within the Council and the Police. The Council indicated that they kept a log of all known unauthorised encampments within the district. The records indicated that there had been sixteen separate encampments during 2009 – 2012 (six in 2009; five in 2010; and five in 2011). The following encampments were recorded during 2011.

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

Camp	Location	Number of caravans involved	Duration of encampment
1	Land at Gorse Lane, Fradley	4	3 weeks
2	Plantation Lane, Hopwas,	3	4 weeks
3	Park Lane, Huddlesford	1	6 days
4	Plantation Lane, Hopwas,	2	2-3 weeks
5	Bonehill Road, Mile Oak,	3	4-5 weeks

<sup>22</sup> We were notified of this encampment outside the fieldwork period of the assessment i.e. at the point when the survey questionnaire was being finalised and administered to the Community Interviewers. We were therefore unable to respond to the encampment.



- 5.11 The average size of encampment was three caravans, and the average duration was between nineteen and twenty-two days. The Council were unable to provide information on what action was taken in relation to these encampments.
- 5.12 Lichfield Council reported that there was no clear seasonal variation in relation to the occurrence of unauthorised encampments. It was suggested that households on unauthorised encampments were a mix between those 'local' to the area or sub-region and those 'in transit'. The number and size of encampments had reportedly remained broadly the same over the last five years and was expected to remain broadly the same over the next five years.
- 5.13 Tamworth Borough Council indicated that they have a written policy for managing unauthorised encampments and that they were party to a joint agreement/protocol with the Police in relation to managing unauthorised encampments. It was indicated that an officer within the Council would normally first make contact with Gypsies and Travellers on unauthorised encampments. The Council provided the following additional comments in relation to their approach to unauthorised encampments:

*"We also ensure that the travellers needs are taken into account by ensuring that the relevant agencies are notified i.e. education, social services, health etc, a practice which appears not commonly used by other authorities"*

The Council also reported that they had recently attempted to coordinate with the education services and the other Staffordshire authorities to identify a common practice of information sharing in relation to Gypsies and Travellers.

- 5.14 The Council indicated that they kept a log of all known unauthorised encampments within the borough. The records indicated that there had been seventeen separate encampments in Tamworth during 2009 – 2012 (nine in 2009; five in 2010; and three in 2011). The following encampments were recorded during 2011.

Table 5.3: Unauthorised encampments Tamworth 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011

Camp	Location	Number of caravans involved	Duration of encampment	Action taken
1	Galena Close	2	2 days	Left of own accord
2	Centurion Way	3	1 day	Left of own accord
3	County Drive	5	2 days	Left of own accord

- 5.15 The average size of encampment was three caravans, and the average duration was two days. Tamworth Council reported that unauthorised encampments were more common during the summer, and that most were 'in transit' rather than 'local' to the area or sub-region. The number and size of encampments had reportedly remained broadly the same over the last five years and was expected to remain broadly the same over the next five years.

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

6.1 Nationally, it is recognised that the numbers of Gypsies and Travellers currently accommodated within bricks and mortar accommodation are unknown, but potentially large. Indeed, the Commission for Racial Equality's 2006 report, *Common Ground: Equality, good race relations and sites for Gypsies and Irish Travellers*, suggested that the housed population was around three times the number of trailer-based populations, while the CLG guidance on producing GTAAs suggested the housed population to be more than half of the total population<sup>23</sup>. However, it is widely acknowledged that there is very little secondary data available on the number of Gypsies and Travellers in bricks and mortar accommodation. Numbers can only be estimated, as Gypsies and Travellers are not counted as a separate group by most data sources<sup>24</sup>. Where they are included separately, Gypsies and Travellers may sometimes be reluctant to identify themselves for fear of reprisals<sup>25</sup>. Movement to and from housing is a major concern for the strategic approach, policies and working practices of local authorities in relation to the provision of new accommodation for Gypsy and Traveller communities.

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

6.2 As highlighted above, the Commission for Racial Equality suggest that the housed population is around three times the number of trailer-based populations. However, as the number of trailer-based households across the two authorities is low, this multiplier is unhelpful in the context of this assessment. Consequently, a number of other sources are pursued in order to provide some indication as to the population in bricks and mortar accommodation.

6.3 Lichfield District Council indicated the following:

- Gypsies and Travellers are specifically referred to in their current housing and homelessness strategy.
- Gypsies and Travellers are not identified in ethnic monitoring records in relation to housing applications/allocations.
- There was no information on how many Gypsies and Travellers were: currently registered for social housing; currently living in social housing; or housed in 2010/11.
- It was reported that one homelessness presentation had been made by someone who ascribed as being 'Gypsy or Traveller'. The main reason for presenting as homeless was recorded as "*Harassment leading to loss of caravan on own authorised site*".

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

<sup>24</sup> Shelter (2008) *Good practice guide: Working with housed Gypsies and Travellers*, London: Shelter.

<sup>25</sup> CLG (2007) *Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments – Guidance*, London: HMSO.

- They did not know if the number of Gypsies and Travellers moving into social housing had changed over the last five years or would change over the next five years.
- There was no information on Gypsies and Travellers living in private housing.

6.4 Tamworth Borough Council indicated the following:

- Gypsies and Travellers are specifically referred to in their current housing and homelessness strategy.
- Gypsies and Travellers are not identified in ethnic monitoring records in relation to housing applications/allocations.
- There was no information on how many Gypsies and Travellers were: currently registered for social housing; currently living in social housing; housed in 2010/11; or presented as homeless in the last twelve months.
- They did not know if the number of Gypsies and Travellers moving into social housing had changed over the last five years or would change over the next five years.
- There was no information on Gypsies and Travellers living in private housing.

6.5 In order to engage with households in bricks and mortar accommodation the Community Interviewers deployed three main strategies. They utilised their own extensive social networks in order to find people who lived in houses in the two areas; they asked people who they had interviewed in trailer-based accommodation if they knew of people in houses and if they would be happy to pass on their details; and they utilised snowball sampling where one respondent in housing recommended engaging with similar households.

6.6 None of the stakeholders that were consulted nor members of the local Gypsy and Traveller communities in the study area were able to accurately estimate the size of the Gypsy and Traveller population in bricks and mortar accommodation. In the absence of accurate evidence, the estimate of the base population of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople living in houses is based on the assumption that the number of interviews with bricks and mortar households that were secured was a minimum of 75% of the housed population. In a number of GTAA's we have carried out in other areas, an assumption has been made that survey samples have included around 50% of the housed population. This has been based on a range of information, including that provided by stakeholders, as well as taking into account the fieldwork period and how many additional interviews the Community Interviewers could have achieved with more time. In relation to the fieldwork in Lichfield and Tamworth, the Community Interviewers indicated that they had exhausted achievable bricks and mortar interviews within the study areas through site-based contacts and snowball sampling. However, it is recognised that the survey is unlikely to have captured *all* bricks and mortar residents. It is therefore reasonable to assume that the sample constitutes three quarters of the housed population<sup>26</sup>.

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<sup>26</sup> This figure should be revised should further information become available at a later date.

6.7 It should be noted that we believe that this may be an understatement of the actual housed population, but it is based on the best information available at the time of the assessment. A more accurate estimation of the numbers of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in houses will only be possible when a number of issues are resolved:

- Monitoring forms allow for the ethnic groups as options
- The data from the Census 2011 is released
- Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople feel able to disclose their ethnic group in monitoring forms
- Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople feel able to disclose their ethnic group to the wider community.

6.8 Until some of the above issues are resolved, estimates based on the informal knowledge of stakeholders and the experiences of fieldworkers, such as those in this study, will be the only and best source of evidence. It is recommended that the issue of housed Gypsies and Travellers is revisited in more detail in future studies of this type.

**Living in bricks and mortar accommodation: survey findings**

6.9 A total of thirty-two respondents were consulted with who were living in bricks and mortar accommodation (84% of the sample as a whole): fifteen in Lichfield and seventeen in Tamworth. Table 6.1 below shows the breakdown by tenure. As can be seen, 72% of the same as a whole indicated that they were living in socially rented accommodation, with smaller numbers of owner occupiers and those living in private rented accommodation. The residents were mostly Romany Gypsies (thirty respondents – 94%). One respondent indicated that they were Irish Traveller (Tamworth) while one respondent did not want to provide a response (Lichfield).

Table 6.1: Tenure of bricks and mortar respondents

Tenure	All		Lichfield		Tamworth	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Rented from local authority or social landlord	23	72	11	73	12	71
Owner occupation	7	22	4	27	3	18
Rented from private landlord	2	6	-	-	2	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100</b>

*Overall experience of living in a house*

6.10 Table 6.2 shows how respondents rated living in a house. As can be seen, three quarters of respondents rated their experience as good / very good. Only one respondent (in Lichfield) rated their experience as poor.

Table 6.2: Experience of living in a house

Rating	All		Lichfield		Tamworth	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Very good	6	19	3	20	3	18
Good	18	56	7	47	11	65
Neither good nor poor	8	25	4	27	4	24
Poor	1	3	1	7	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100</b>

### *Ownership of trailers*

- 6.11 Seven respondents in Lichfield owned trailers (47%), which were all for occasional use. All seven respondents had just one trailer.
- 6.12 Ten respondents in Tamworth owned trailers (59%), which were all for occasional use. All ten respondents had just one trailer.

### *Views on size of property*

- 6.13 The majority of respondents (twenty-seven/84%) had three bedrooms, with the exception of five respondents (two in Lichfield and three in Tamworth) who lived in two bedroom properties.
- 6.14 When asked if they had enough space in their current home, just one respondent said no. This respondent was living in Tamworth and indicated that they needed a larger house.
- 6.15 Five respondents reported that visitors come to stay with them (three in Lichfield and two in Tamworth). Three of these respondents indicated that visitors stayed with them in their home, while two respondents indicated that their visitors brought a trailer and stayed on their drive/in their yard. One respondent made the following comment about accommodating their visitors:

*“My sister and her husband bring their own caravan and stay in my yard because there is nowhere else for them to pull when they want to have a few days with us” (Lichfield respondent)*

- 6.16 Seven respondents (22%) indicated that hosting visitors was a problem for them (three in Lichfield and four in Tamworth). When asked to elaborate, these respondents made reference to not having enough space for visitors, particularly for accommodating trailers.

### *Previous accommodation experiences*

- 6.17 When asked why they came to live in a house, people gave a variety of reasons (see Table 6.3 below). The most common reasons were lack of sites (28% of the sample as a whole) or to be near family / friends (25% of the sample as a whole). The respondent who had been evicted from their previous accommodation indicated that they had been on an unauthorised encampment in Lichfield.

Table 6.3: Main reason for moving to the house

Reason	All		Lichfield		Tamworth	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Lack of sites	9	28	5	33	4	24
To be near family / friends	8	25	4	27	4	24
There was a vacancy	5	16	2	13	3	18
House was available to buy	3	9	1	7	2	12
Health reasons	2	6	-	-	2	12
Family problems	2	6	-	-	2	12
Work available in the area	1	3	1	7	-	-
Evicted from last accommodation	1	3	1	7	-	-
Separated from partner	1	3	1	7	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100</b>

- 6.18 Table 6.4 below shows the type of accommodation they had immediately before their current house. As can be seen, the respondents had moved from a range of accommodation types, with unauthorised encampments and private sites being most common. A large proportion of respondents, however, had lived in the house all their adult life.

Table 6.4: Previous accommodation

Accommodation type	All		Lichfield		Tamworth	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Been here all my adult life	12	38	5	33	7	41
Unauthorised encampment	8	25	5	33	3	18
Private site - permanent permission	5	16	3	20	2	12
Private site - temporary permission	3	9	1	3	2	12
Council site	2	6	1	3	1	6
Another house	1	3	-	-	1	6
Transit site	1	3	-	-	1	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100</b>

- 6.19 With regards to where people had moved from, of the five respondents interviewed in Lichfield who had moved from unauthorised encampments, three indicated that they had been on encampments in Lichfield before moving into a house; one respondent indicated *"any roadside we could get stopping"*; and one respondent said *"roadside near the A5"*. The respondent who had moved from a council site indicated that this was in Warwickshire. They indicated that they had left the site because it *"got smashed up"*. The four respondents who had moved into a house from private sites made reference to the following locations: Cannock; Hinckley; Lichfield; and Stafford. Two respondents had left the private sites due to a change in personal circumstances (i.e. marriage / separation); one respondent indicated that they had sold the land as they had *"got sick of trying to get it passed"* (Stafford); and one respondent had left a private site due to harassment (Hinckley).
- 6.20 With regards to the Tamworth respondents, of the three respondents who had moved from unauthorised encampments, one indicated that they had been on encampments in Tamworth before moving into a house; one respondent had been in Walsall; and one indicated *"anywhere around here - Tamworth, Lichfield"*. The respondent who had moved from a council site indicated that this was in Leicester; they had moved due to poor site conditions. The respondent who had moved from

the transit site indicated that this was in Walsall; they had moved because the house was available to buy. The four respondents who had moved into a house from private sites made reference to the following locations: Banbury; Bristol; Burton; and Cannock. Two of these respondents had moved because they had sold the land (Cannock and Burton), while the other two had moved due to fears over personal safety (Banbury and Bristol). As can be seen, one respondent had moved from another house, which had been in Coventry. They had moved because they wanted a better house.

### *Length of time in the general area and in the house*

- 6.21 With the exception of one respondent, everyone had lived in the general area for ten years or more. The one respondent who had not, was currently living in Tamworth, and had lived there for between five and ten years. The main reasons for staying in the area was being born/raised there (48%) or having family living in the area (42%) (see Table 6.5 below).

Table 6.5: Main reason for staying in this area

Reason	All		Lichfield		Tamworth	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Born / raised here	15	48	8	57	7	41
Have family living in the area	13	42	3	21	10	59
Work available in the area	1	3	1	7	-	-
Lack of sites	1	3	1	7	-	-
Children's schooling / education	1	3	1	7	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: excludes one missing case

- 6.22 With regards to length of time in their current house, the majority of respondents (63% of the sample as a whole) had lived there for ten years or more, particularly those interviewed in Tamworth (71% of those interviewed in Tamworth).

Table 6.6: Length of time in current house

Length	All		Lichfield		Tamworth	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Ten years or more	20	63	8	53	12	71
5 years or more but less than 10	7	22	4	27	3	18
3 years or more but less than 5	4	13	2	13	2	12
1 year or more but less than 3	1	3	1	7	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100</b>

- 6.23 Just one respondent reported having a base elsewhere. They were living in Lichfield and indicated that they jointly owned an unauthorised development with another family member. This development was in Derby.

### *Travelling experiences*

- 6.24 Fifteen respondents (47%) indicated that they never travelled (eight in Lichfield and seven in Tamworth). The majority of these respondents (eleven - 73%) indicated that this was due to health, older age or educational needs. With regards to the remaining

four respondents, they did not provide a reason. The last time people had travelled ranged from eighteen months ago to twelve years ago.

- 6.25 With regards to the seventeen respondents (53%) who did travel, fourteen travelled a few times a year, while the remaining three travelled once a year. When asked where they tended to go to, the majority of respondents made reference to travelling to fairs (for example, Appleby and Stow). However, individual respondents did make reference to visiting relatives in various parts of England.
- 6.26 All seventeen respondents had travelled in the last twelve months. As highlighted above, this was primarily to attend a fair or to visit relatives. With regards to where people stayed while travelling, people stayed at designated fair sites when visiting the fairs or with relatives on private sites. A small number of respondents indicated that they also stayed on caravan / holiday parks. Only one respondent stated that they stopped at the roadside.

### *Employment*

- 6.27 The majority of households were self employed (twenty-seven - 84%). These respondents primarily worked within the local authority area that they lived, with a smaller number indicating that they worked across the West Midlands. Two respondents indicated they were retired (one in Lichfield and one in Tamworth), while three respondents were not and not looking for work (two in Tamworth and one in Lichfield).
- 6.28 Respondents were asked if they had ever experienced any issues or problems accessing employment. Only one respondent said yes and made the following comments:

*"I was told not to finish the tree job because they found out we were Travellers in Walsall about two to three years ago" (Tamworth respondent)*

While no one else made reference to any problems accessing employment, two respondents did clarify that where they work, people are not aware that they are Gypsies/Travellers.

### *Health services and issues*

- 6.29 The respondents were asked if they had access to the following health services: GP/health centre; health visitor; maternity care; A & E; and dentist. All respondents indicated that they had sufficient access to these services; where households said that that they did not currently have access, this was because the service was not relevant to them (for example, maternity care). None of the respondents indicated that they had experienced any problems accessing the local health care services.
- 6.30 Respondents were also asked to indicate if they, or anyone in their household, needed support for any of the following reasons: frail elderly; a medical condition; a physical disability; a learning disability; a mental health problem; or a sensory disability. Four respondents in Lichfield indicated that they or someone within their



household required support: one respondent indicated that their spouse had arthritis; two respondents had someone within their household with a medical condition; while one respondent had someone within their household who was frail elderly, had a medical condition and a physical disability. Six respondents in Tamworth indicated that they or someone within their household required support: two respondents had someone within their household with a medical condition; one respondent had someone within their household with a physical disability; while three respondents had someone within their household who had a medical condition and another health issue (i.e. mental health problem, physical disability and frail elderly).

### *Satisfaction with local area*

6.31 Respondents were also asked to indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied they were with their local area as a place to live (see Table 6.7 below).

Table 6.7: Satisfaction with local area

Rating	All		Lichfield		Tamworth	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Very satisfied	17	53	9	60	8	47
Fairly satisfied	10	31	3	20	7	41
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	5	16	3	20	2	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100</b>

6.32 As can be seen, the majority of respondents were fairly or very satisfied with their local area. No respondents indicated that they were dissatisfied, with only a small number (five) indicating ambivalent views. When asked to elaborate on their response, people primarily made reference to liking the people in the area, liking the area, but also living in the area all of their life. The following illustrates some of the comments that were made:

*“I know everyone here and I have very good neighbours” (Lichfield respondent)*

*“I like the people and the schools have always been good with my kids” (Lichfield respondent)*

*“I’ve lived in the area all my life. We travel in the summer, but love to come home” (Tamworth respondent)*

*“We have lived here over fourteen years. The people are nice. Not everyone knows we are Travellers in this area” (Tamworth respondent)*

*“Everyone gets on with us here. They don’t mind us being Gypsies in the street and we have friends who have moved near us” (Tamworth respondent)*

Although the responses were mainly positive, one respondent did make the following comment when asked about their local area:

*“We need a proper site around here because Travellers have nowhere to go unless it is in houses” (Lichfield respondent)*

## 7. Future accommodation, household formation and accommodation affordability

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

### Future accommodation intentions

7.2 Table 7.1 shows the movement intentions of the households.

Table 7.1: Movement

Intention	All		Lichfield				Tamworth	
			Private site		Bricks and mortar		Bricks and mortar	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Immediate move	1	3	1	17	-	-	-	-
Move in the next 12 months	1	3	1	17	-	-	-	-
Stay indefinitely	3	8	1	17	1	7	1	6
No plans to move	29	76	3	50	11	73	15	88
Other	4	11	-	-	3	20	1	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100</b>

7.3 With regards to Lichfield, the respondent on the private site who needed to move immediately, indicated that the main reason for this was to travel. This respondent was a temporary visitor to the site, with their own base elsewhere which they would be returning to in the winter. They did not intend staying in the area and indicated that they were on their way to Stow; however, it was apparent that they made annual transit visits to the area:

*"We have our own land...but it's lovely to travel around for a bit. We are making our way to Stow next month, then we will be going home for winter. This is the only site around this area, but we really like it, that's why we come back most years"*

7.4 The respondent on the private site who needed to move in the next twelve months also said that the main reason was to travel; however, they also made reference to work reasons and wanting independence. They stated that they did not intend staying in the area, although they were looking for a private site owned by someone else within the West Midlands. They indicated that they were aware of accommodation that they could move to.

- 7.5 With regards to the three respondents who indicated 'other', all three made reference to wanting site-based accommodation. The following provides further information about these households:

HH1: rated experience of living in a house as neither good nor poor. Indicated that they had lived in the general area for ten years or more. They had lived in a house for less than three years. Prior to living in the house they had lived in site-based accommodation in Lichfield. They had moved from this accommodation due to a relationship breakdown. They indicated that they intended to stay in this area. They were looking for a permanent council site. They indicated that they needed to be within Lichfield due to family living in the area. They were not aware of any accommodation available for them to move to. They made the following comments:

*"No plans to move yet, but if they make a new site I would put my name down"*

HH2: rated experience of living in a house as neither good nor poor. Indicated that they had lived in the general area for ten years or more. They had lived in a house for around seven years. Prior to living in a house they had stayed on an unauthorised encampment in Lichfield. They had moved into a house due to eviction from the encampment. They indicated that they intended to stay in this area. They were looking for a permanent council site. They indicated that they needed to be within the West Midlands due to family living in the area. They were not aware of any accommodation available for them to move to. They made the following comments:

*"There is nowhere to move to, no sites around here...I love the house but would love to be back in a trailer...There should be more sites for Travellers in this area, so the Travellers can come out of the houses"*

HH3: rated their experience of living in a house as poor. Indicated that they had lived in the general area for ten years or more. They had lived in a house for around four years. Prior to living in a house they had lived in site-based accommodation in Warwickshire. They had moved from this site because it had '*got smashed up*'. They indicated that they intended to stay in this area. They were looking for a permanent council site. They indicated that they needed to be '*anywhere in the Tamworth and Lichfield area*' due to being born/raised in this area. They made the following comments:

*"We would move in a minute if we had a site to move on...there is only one Travelling man's site in this area. I would love to be back on a site with all my family and friends. We want our children to go to school, so we have to stay here until there is a site"*

- 7.6 As can be seen, nearly all respondents in Tamworth indicated that they currently had no plans to move, with one respondent wanting to stay in their current accommodation indefinitely. The respondent in Tamworth who indicated 'other' stated that they were currently looking for their own piece of land that could be developed into a site. They indicated that they intended staying in Tamworth and were looking for a piece of land without planning permission. They indicated that

they needed to stay in the Tamworth area. The main reason for needing to stay in Tamworth was having family in the area; however, they also cited children's education / schooling and availability of work. They did not know if there was any site-based accommodation for them to move to. They had been living in Tamworth between three and five years.

### **Household concealment**

- 7.7 None of the respondents in Lichfield or Tamworth reported concealed households (i.e. separate households currently in need of accommodation and living with them).

### **Household formation**

- 7.8 Respondents were also asked whether there were people living with them who were likely to need their own separate accommodation in the next five years (i.e. by 2017). Just one respondent said yes. They were currently living in a house in Lichfield and indicated that their son would be getting married over the next five years. They did not know where he would move to, although they indicated that they would like him to stay in the same area. They indicated that he would need site-based accommodation, but did not know if this would need to be private or socially rented. The remaining respondents indicated that there were no households forming over the next five years or said that they did not know.

### **Accommodation affordability**

- 7.9 In order to explore issues of accommodation affordability we asked respondents if they could afford to purchase any of the following: a pitch on a private site with planning permission; pitch on a private site without planning permission; land to be developed into a site. Nineteen respondents (50%) indicated that they could not afford any of these options (nine in Lichfield and ten in Tamworth), while eleven respondents (29%) indicated that it was not relevant as they were not moving or not looking for land (eight in Lichfield and three in Tamworth). Seven respondents indicated that they could afford to buy land or a pitch (three in Lichfield and four in Tamworth). One respondent did not provide a response.
- 7.10 Respondents were also asked how much they paid per month in rent or mortgage for their current accommodation. The majority of respondents (twenty-one - 55%) were paying £256 – £385, followed by £386 – £515 (nine - 24%) and £516 - £645 (five - 13%). The remaining respondents did not pay rent because they were on the private site, did not know because it was paid for by their benefits or did not want to say.

### *Note about affordability*

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

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

## 8. Travelling Showpeople

- 8.1 Travelling Showpeople occupy an unusual position in planning terms and a separate planning Circular, detailing the particular planning needs of Travelling Showpeople, was produced: Circular 04/07. As well as detailing the requirements for pitch identification and allocation for Travelling Showpeople, Circular 04/07 also required that the accommodation needs of Travelling Showpeople were included within the assessments of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs. Circular 04/07 has been replaced by the new planning policy<sup>27</sup>. However, it is clear that the accommodation needs of Travelling Showpeople should be included within the assessments of accommodation need for 'travellers' within this new framework.
- 8.2 Information provided by Lichfield and Tamworth Councils indicates that there are no Travelling Showpeople known to be living within the two areas. Consultation with The Showmen's Guild of Great Britain also indicated that there are currently no sites in either area and no identified need in these two areas at present.
- 8.3 Lichfield District Council indicated that their current development plan did not include a policy towards sites for Travelling Showpeople. They indicated that the number of Travelling Showpeople sites in the district had remained static since 2006. The Council indicated that they did not expect the number of Travelling Showpeople sites to increase over the next five years. They had not experienced any unauthorised development, nor had any enforcement action been taken, in relation to the development of sites for Travelling Showpeople since 2006.
- 8.4 Tamworth Borough Council indicated that their current development plan did not include a policy towards sites for Travelling Showpeople. They indicated that the number of Travelling Showpeople sites in the district had remained static since 2006. The Council indicated that they did not expect the number of Travelling Showpeople sites to increase over the next five years. They had not experience any unauthorised development, nor had any enforcement action been taken, in relation to the development of sites for Travelling Showpeople since 2006.
- 8.5 The lack of Travelling Showpeople in the boroughs appears to imply that there is a nil need for yard-based accommodation from Travelling Showpeople households. However, it should be noted that Travelling Showpeople remain distinct from Gypsies and Travellers and further work may need to be produced, across local authority boundaries, to accurately understand their accommodation needs. There may be a need for accommodation in the boroughs from families working in the areas but who live in adjacent or other authorities. A cross-boundary assessment in partnership with the Showmen's Guild would, most effectively, identify such shortage.

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<sup>27</sup> CLG (2012) *Planning for traveller sites*

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

## 9. An assessment of accommodation need

9.1 There are no signs that the accommodation need from Gypsy and Traveller communities has yet been met. Research from the Equalities and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has indicated that around 6,000 additional pitches for Gypsies and Travellers are immediately required nationally to meet the current shortage of accommodation within England.<sup>28</sup>

### A note on the assessment of accommodation need

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

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

- The Guidance on Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments.<sup>29</sup>
- Guidance for Regional Planning.<sup>30</sup>
- Knowledge and experience of assumptions featuring in other GTAs and results of EiP tests of GTAs.
- The messages arising from the CLG consultation document 'Planning for Travellers' and the content of the new planning policy.

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

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<sup>28</sup> See Brown, P., Henning, S. and Niner, P (2010) *Assessing local housing authorities' progress in meeting the accommodation needs of Gypsy and Traveller communities in England and Wales : Update 2010*, Equality and Human Rights Commission.

<sup>29</sup> CLG (2007) *Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments – Guidance*, London: HMSO.

<sup>30</sup> CURS, SHUSU and CRESR (2007) *Preparing Regional Spatial Strategy reviews on Gypsies and Travellers by regional planning bodies*, London: CLG, online at: [http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/209/PreparingRegionalSpatialStrategyreviewsonGypsiesandTravellersbyregionalplannings\\_id1508209.pdf](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/209/PreparingRegionalSpatialStrategyreviewsonGypsiesandTravellersbyregionalplannings_id1508209.pdf)

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

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

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

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

***Current residential supply***

- Socially rented pitches.
- Private authorised pitches.

***Residential need 2012–2017***

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



### ***Additional supply 2012–2017***

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

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

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

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

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

#### ***Current residential supply***

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

9.10 **Row 2:** The number of pitches on private authorised sites provided by local authority information. Please note this excludes the site which Lichfield Council indicated was currently unusable.

9.11 **Row 3:** The total number of authorised pitches within Lichfield and Tamworth.

#### ***Residential pitch need 2012–2017***

9.12 **Row 4:** The number of pitches which have temporary planning permission due to expire within the assessment period.

9.13 **Row 5:** The number of concealed households occupying existing accommodation who require independent accommodation within the boroughs. This was zero for both areas.

9.14 **Row 6:** This is the number of pitches required from new household formation. The figure for Lichfield is shown below. The figure for Tamworth was zero.

#### ***Pitch requirement from new households forming - Lichfield***

**Finding:** Drawing upon the information contained within Chapter 7 (paragraph 7.8), the survey showed that there was one household from the Lichfield sample requiring their own separate accommodation over the next five years (7% of the bricks and mortar sample). This household came from a household living in bricks and mortar accommodation. The household expressed a need for site based accommodation.

**Calculation:** 7% of the bricks and mortar sample in Lichfield. Grossed to the estimated population in bricks and mortar accommodation (19 households). 7% of 19 = **1 household**.

9.15 **Row 7:** This is the level of need arising from current unauthorised developments. This was zero for both areas.

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

#### ***Movement between housing and sites - Lichfield***

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

**Movement from housing to sites:** Three respondents in bricks and mortar accommodation wanted to move from their house to site-based accommodation (20% of the bricks and mortar sample). All three intended to remain within their current area and were looking for a council site (see paragraph 7.5).

**Calculation:** 20% of the bricks and mortar sample in Lichfield. Grossed to the estimated population in bricks and mortar accommodation (19 households). 20% of 19 = **4 households**.

### ***Movement between housing and sites - Tamworth***

**Movement from sites to housing:** There is currently no site in Tamworth.

**Movement from housing to sites:** One respondent in bricks and mortar accommodation wanted to move from their house to site-based accommodation (6% of the bricks and mortar sample). This respondent wanted to remain within Tamworth and wanted to develop their own site (see paragraph 7.6).

**Calculation:** 6% of the bricks and mortar sample in Tamworth. Grossed to the estimated population in bricks and mortar accommodation (21). 6% of 21 = **1 household.**

- 9.17 **Row 9:** Plans to close existing sites, which have been calculated within the supply of site accommodation, will ultimately displace a number of Gypsies and Travellers resulting in an increase in housing need. There are no sites that are due to close.
- 9.18 **Row 10:** This provides an estimation of the need arising from households on unauthorised encampments. As highlighted in Chapter 5, during the assessment period we only received notification of one unauthorised encampment (within Lichfield). We were unable to include this encampment within the assessment due to the timing of the encampment<sup>31</sup>. We are therefore unable to assess the residential need (if any) arising from this encampment. The previous cross-boundary assessment applied findings from households' resident outside the two boroughs in order to calculate need from unauthorised encampments, which is not possible in this localised assessment. This assessment has not found any need for residential accommodation from households on unauthorised encampments; however, unauthorised encampments have occurred within the study areas (less so in Tamworth). No allowance has been made for need from unauthorised encampments due to a lack of primary data available and no assumptions have been made and extrapolated to the data from stakeholders. The potential need for accommodation from unauthorised encampments remains an issue however, and should remain under close review by the agencies responsible (the separate issue of transit accommodation is detailed in Chapter 10).
- 9.19 **Row 11:** This is the level of movement of households between areas. The assessment found no evidence to suggest that there is movement between areas. It is assumed that if movement does occur, in-migration will balance out-migration
- 9.20 **Row 12:** This is the total gross residential need for pitches arising in Lichfield and Tamworth between 2012 and 2017.

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<sup>31</sup> We were notified of this encampment outside the fieldwork period of the assessment i.e. at the point when the survey questionnaire was being finalised and administered to the Community Interviewers. We were therefore unable to respond to the encampment.

- 9.21 **Row 13:** This is the supply of pitches – for example, through pitch vacancies – in each area. The supply of pitches is nil for Tamworth. In Lichfield, as highlighted in paragraph 4.3, there is a one pitch site that is currently vacant. Lichfield Council indicated that it would not be too onerous to bring the site back into use. It has therefore been included as an element of potential supply. With regards to the other site in Lichfield, given that it is a private site, the issue of site vacancies and potential supply would need to be discussed with the owner of the site.
- 9.22 **Row 14:** This is the total net requirement for pitches arising in the two boroughs between 2012 and 2017.

***Permanent residential accommodation need over 2017–2021 and 2022-2028***

- 9.23 It is necessary to plan for the long term and anticipate pitch need from Gypsy and Traveller households. In order to tackle the complexity of needs that may well occur over the next decade it is established practice in assessment of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation need to apply an assumed rate of household growth. It has been common in similar studies to employ a standard 3% per annum compound rate of household growth. This figure is then applied, minus an assumed ratio for pitch sharing of 1:0.75, to the projected number of pitches which should be available by 2017. All household growth is assumed to require a site-based solution. This study does not allow for unauthorised developments over the next periods (2017 – 2021 and 2022 – 2028) because the factors which will contribute to future need have been clearly identified and measured as part of the study. The supply of pitches over the 2017 – 2028 period has been considered, but has been assumed to be zero. This is consistent with earlier GTAAs and implicitly compensates for not taking into account needs arising from drivers other than family growth. However, it is recommended that the rate of household growth is kept under review.
- 9.24 **Row 15:** The total requirement for pitches in Lichfield and Tamworth over the period 2017-2022.
- 9.25 **Row 16:** The total requirement for pitches in Lichfield and Tamworth over the period 2022-2028.
- 9.26 **Row 17:** The total overall requirement for pitches in Lichfield and Tamworth over the period 2012-2028.

**In summary**

- 9.27 In relation to Lichfield, accommodation need arises from the following factors:
- New household formation
  - Movement from houses to site-based accommodation
- 9.28 In relation to Tamworth, accommodation need arises from the following factor:
- Movement from houses to site-based accommodation

9.29 This analysis has shown that there is an accommodation need for **six households** over the 2012-2028 period; **five in Lichfield** and **one in Tamworth**. These figures incorporate a household growth rate of 3% a year compound as applied to all current households in the area and all future households that should be accommodated on pitches by 2017 to estimate need in the period 2017-2028.

## 10. An assessment of need for transit accommodation

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

### Need for transit sites and stopping places

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

10.3 In Lichfield, it appears that some transit need is currently being catered for by site-based households on one of the private sites, who allow people to stay with them for short periods at various times throughout the year. The level of unauthorised camping within both areas indicates an unmet need for some form of transit provision. However, determining the need for transit pitches is incredibly complex. A common method used by local authorities has been to base the level of need on the average size of the unauthorised encampments that were occurring in their area. Consistent data would therefore be required in order to assess this issue.

10.4 While it is difficult to determine transit need, this assessment would support the approach of creating a network of transit facilities across the wider region to accommodate short term accommodation requirements. Such an approach is discussed in a regional study on transit need produced in 2009.<sup>32</sup>

10.5 Should the authorities decide to provide for transit need, there are a number of issues to consider:

- The geographic nature of the area - the provision of one transit site may not provide for need across the different areas within the two areas.
- A single transit site in each area would force the mixing of differing groups (family and ethnic) and could lead to potential tensions.
- The needs of the travelling groups often combines a mixture of motivations (i.e. work, family and holiday). A uniform transit site may not meet the differing requirements.

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<sup>32</sup> Niner, P. (2009) *South East England Regional Gypsy and Traveller Transit Study*, Final Report, Birmingham: University of Birmingham, October 2009

10.6 Although transit need could be met by the creation of 'hard' purpose-made pitches/sites, it is also recommended that consideration is given to the need for the development of such 'hard' pitches along with the possibility of 'soft' transit pitches (i.e. designated stopping places). Such 'softer' options would provide Gypsies and Travellers with somewhere authorised and more secure to stop whilst creating a minimal environmental impact. Such stopping places are often favoured by Gypsy and Traveller households.

## **11. Concluding comments**

- 11.1 This final chapter contains some concluding comments which aim to help Lichfield and Tamworth Councils to understand how the need arising within the two areas may best be met.
- 11.2 The issue of suppressed need from people living in bricks and mortar accommodation should be monitored in both areas. While the majority of bricks and mortar respondents had no plans to move, for some, the lack of site provision may have prompted their move into bricks and mortar in the first place. This lack of choice needs to be taken into consideration as it will only compound current inequalities in provision.
- 11.3 It should be noted that the need identified in this assessment does not arise from people from elsewhere but from the existing - and long term - residents of Lichfield and Tamworth.
- 11.4 While household formation figures appear to be very low (or nil for Tamworth), this should be monitored as further in-depth analysis of the survey findings indicate that a number of older children will be of an age for household formation in the next period. For example, while the figure for Tamworth is calculated as nil over the period 2017 – 2028, the household from which Tamworth’s need arises has two children aged 11 – 16 and one child aged 6 – 10.
- 11.5 Steps should be taken to address the provision of affordable accommodation for those who require it.
- 11.6 There appears to be a nil need from Travelling Showpeople households. However, it should be noted that Travelling Showpeople remain distinct from Gypsies and Travellers and further work may need to be produced, across local authority boundaries, to accurately understand their accommodation needs.
- 11.7 Although the pitch requirements over the 2012-2017 period should be seen as accurate as a result of utilising the best information available at the time of the study, pitch requirements for the 2017-2028 period should be seen as indicative due to the reliance on household growth figures. It is recommended that this assessment of accommodation need is repeated in due course (circa five years) to ensure this assessment remains as accurate as possible.
- 11.8 The long term accommodation needs arising from Gypsy and Traveller households in bricks and mortar accommodation continue to be largely unknown. Although this assessment has been successful in including the needs of this group it is not known how representative these findings are across the entire population who live in houses. More work needs to take place around estimating the size of the housed population and monitoring their accommodation need. Some of this may be made possible as a result of findings from Census 2011, which included the ethnicities of Romany Gypsy and Irish Traveller.



- 11.9 No allowance has been made for need from unauthorised encampments in this assessment due to a lack of primary data and no assumptions have been made and extrapolated to the data provided by the local authorities. The need for accommodation from unauthorised encampments remains a potential issue however, and should remain under close review by the agencies responsible for managing unauthorised encampments.
- 11.10 Requirements for the provision of transit accommodation are impossible to predict from this assessment. As highlighted previously, no interviews were secured on unauthorised encampments during the fieldwork period. As highlighted in paragraph 10.4, this assessment would support a network of transit facilities (either formal or informal). At present, encampments primarily appear to be being managed on an ad hoc basis with little evidence of a long-term strategic plan for dealing with their occurrence. A longer term monitoring exercise is needed to review travelling patterns and the incidence of transient unauthorised encampments, and to assess provision and requirements. Furthermore, in order to 'future-proof' for need from visitors to the area, consideration should be given to ensuring the provision of short-stay pitches is embedded within the permission granted for residential pitch accommodation.
- 11.11 Finally, it is imperative that progress is made to address the needs identified in this assessment. If no or little progress is made in meeting the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers it is likely that this would involve:
- No additional public site/pitch provision;
  - Receiving applications for the development of private Gypsy or Traveller sites. The national trend indicates that these will often be unsuccessful (around 60% of the time). It is likely that these will stimulate long processes of refusals, enforcement, appeals and inquiries;
  - A continuation, and possible increase, in suppressed need from people in bricks and mortar accommodation; and
  - The possible occurrence of unauthorised developments.
- 11.12 The implications of this are that:
- The various needs that have been identified during the course of this assessment will not be met;
  - New households which are forming will not be able to locate in appropriate accommodation;
  - The legal and other costs of accommodating or removing unauthorised sites will continue and may increase;
  - Greater conflict between the settled and Gypsy and Traveller populations as a result of unauthorised sites in inappropriate areas; and
  - The Councils fail to meet the requirements of both the Housing Act 2004 and national planning policy, which outline the requirement for plans to be developed in order to meet the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers.

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

- Internal staff and departments within the local authorities to ensure a joined-up approach;
- Elected Members;
- Neighbouring local authorities;
- Homes and Communities Agency;
- Key stakeholders including health, education and training, the Police and residential social landlords;
- Gypsies and Travellers (including the Showmen's Guild); and,
- The general public more widely.

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

## Appendix 1: The assessment methodology

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

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

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

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

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

- Stage one: collation and review of existing information
- Stage two: consultation with key stakeholders
- Stage three: survey with Gypsies and Travellers across Lichfield and Tamworth

### **Stage one: Collation and review of existing secondary information**

This first involved the collection, review and synthesis of:

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

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

### **Stage two: Consultation with key stakeholders**

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

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

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

#### *Sampling and response rates*

Sampling Gypsy and Traveller households for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments is always problematic given the absence of accurate information concerning the size and location of the Gypsy and Traveller communities. As such the sampling technique for the assessment was purposive rather than purely random. The sampling strategy for the assessment differed depending upon the particular accommodation type currently inhabited by Gypsies and Travellers in the two areas.<sup>33</sup>

- Information provided by the Councils stated that there was only one (occupied) site across the two areas (a private site in Lichfield). The Community Interviewers were asked to interview every separate household currently on the site.
- For households on unauthorised encampments, officers from both authorities were asked to inform the fieldwork team when and where encampments occurred during the fieldwork period. There was only one unauthorised encampment reported to the team during the fieldwork period (in Lichfield). Unfortunately, we were unable to interview on the encampment in this assessment.
- As the population of Gypsies and Travellers in bricks and mortar housing is relatively hidden from official records there was no sample frame from which to identify people. Therefore, in order to engage with housed Gypsies and Travellers the fieldwork team relied on three main methods: contacts of Gypsies and Travellers who

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<sup>33</sup> Such a sampling strategy coupled with the lack of knowledge about the overall size of the Gypsy and Traveller population means that discussing statistical issues such as sampling error and confidence intervals would be misleading.

had already been interviewed as part of the assessment (i.e. on site-based accommodation); contacts of the Gypsy and Traveller Community Interviewers on the fieldwork team; and snowball sampling where one respondent in housing recommended engaging with similar households.

A total of **38 households** were involved in the assessment: **21 in Lichfield** and **17 in Tamworth**.

In terms of the gender split between interviewees, we spoke to thirty-one women (82%) and seven men (18%). This reflects a commonly achieved gender distribution in GTAAs.

On a base population of twenty-five households in Lichfield, we consulted with twenty-one households; 84% of the estimated Gypsy and Traveller community across Lichfield.

On a base population of twenty-one households in Tamworth, we consulted with seventeen households; 81% of the estimated Gypsy and Traveller community across Tamworth.

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

### *Questionnaire design*

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

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

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

### *Fieldwork and interviewers*

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

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

# Appendix 2: Demographics of the local Gypsy and Traveller population

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

## Demographic and household characteristics

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

### Age of interviewees

The age profile of the sample can be seen from Table A2.1. The 25–39 and 40–45 age groups were most consulted during the assessment, forming 37% and 34% of the total sample respectively.

Table A2.1: Age of interviewees

Age Group	All		Lichfield		Tamworth	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
17–24	1	3	1	5	-	-
25–39	14	37	10	48	4	24
40–49	13	34	4	19	9	53
50–59	6	16	4	19	2	12
60–74	4	11	2	10	2	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100</b>

### Household size

In total, the survey sample accounts for eighty-two members of the Gypsy and Traveller community in Lichfield and sixty-six in Tamworth. The average household size was across the sample as a whole was 3.9. However, there appeared to be a difference in household size between those living in bricks and mortar and those living on site-based accommodation; for example, the average household size for those interviewed on the private site in Lichfield was 2.8, compared to 4.3 in Lichfield's housed sample.

Table A2.2 below shows the number of children of different age cohorts across the sample. There were an average of 1.9 children per household in Lichfield and 1.7 children per household in Tamworth.

Table A2.2: Number of children in households

Age range	All No	Lichfield No	Tamworth No
0-5	6	5	1
6-10	34	23	11
11-16	30	13	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>29</b>

*Gypsy and Traveller groups*

Nearly all respondents indicated that they were Romany Gypsy (English) (92%).

Table A2.3: Interviewees by Gypsy and Traveller group

Gypsy and Traveller groups	All		Lichfield		Tamworth	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Romany Gypsy (English)	35	92	19	90	16	94
Irish Traveller	2	5	1	5	1	6
Refused	1	3	1	5	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100</b>



## Appendix 3: Questionnaire

### Lichfield and Tamworth Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Study Questionnaire

#### Introduction

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

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

Would you be willing to talk to me? If it's not a good time I could arrange to come back later if that suits you better.

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

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

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

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

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

## SECTION A: CURRENT ACCOMMODATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Own your plot/pitch  <sub>1</sub> **Go to QA6**

Rent your plot/pitch  <sub>2</sub> **Go to QA6**

Other **(please specify below)**  <sub>3</sub> **Go to QA6**

---

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

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

Own your trailer/chalets/units

Rent your trailer/chalets/units

Other **(please specify below)**

---

Don't know

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

a. Do you have in total? \_\_\_\_\_

b. Are used as sleeping spaces? \_\_\_\_\_

c. Are used as living spaces (non-sleeping)? \_\_\_\_\_

d. Are used mainly for storage/occasional use? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Yes  <sub>1</sub> **Go to QA10**

No  <sub>2</sub> **Go to QA9**

Don't know  <sub>3</sub> **Go to QA10**

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

1. A larger site/yard

2. A larger pitch/plot

3. More caravans/trailers/units

4. Larger caravans/trailers/units

5. More bedrooms or living space

6. Other **(please specify below)**

---

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

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

---

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

---

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

---

To be near family/friends 4

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

Evicted from last accommodation 6

Lack of sites 7

Overcrowded in previous accommodation 8

For children's schooling/education 9

Work available in the area 10

Land/pitch was available to buy 11

There was a vacancy 12

Convenient for working pattern (Showpeople only) 13

Holiday 14

Family event 15

Other (please specify below) 16

---

QA11. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your local area as a place to live?

**Sharon/Tracey – if you are interviewing someone on an unauthorised encampment/roadside),  
you can just ask them how satisfied they are with this area (i.e. Lichfield or Tamworth)**

Very satisfied 1

Fairly satisfied 2

Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied 3

Fairly dissatisfied 4

Very dissatisfied 5

QA12. Can you briefly explain why you are satisfied / dissatisfied?

---

---

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

QA13. Do other Gypsies/Travellers/Showpeople (e.g. friends/family etc.) come to stay with you on a short-term/transit basis? **(Please tick ✓ one box only)**

- Yes <sub>1</sub> **Go to QA14**  
No <sub>2</sub> **Go to QA16**  
Don't know <sub>3</sub> **Go to QA16**

QA14. Where do they stay? **(Interviewer: this is to explore how much transit need is being taken care of informally)**

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

QA15. Can you briefly describe who comes to stay, how often they come and how long they stay (i.e. daughter, her husband and dependent children, twice a year for around 2 weeks each time)?

---

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---

---

QA16. Is hosting visitors here? **(Please tick ✓ one box only)**

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

QA17. **Specific question for Showpeople** What equipment do you have at present? **(Please list main items and number of pieces of equipment as well as issues regarding the storage of them)**

---

---

---

## SECTION B: LOCAL AND HISTORIC CONNECTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Up to 1 week                             | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> <b>Go to QB4</b>  |
| 2-4 weeks                                | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <b>Go to QB4</b>  |
| More than 1 month but less than 3 months | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> <b>Go to QB4</b>  |
| 3 months or more but less than 6 months  | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> <b>Go to QB4</b>  |
| 6 months or more but less than 12 months | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub> <b>Go to QB4</b>  |
| 1 years or more but less than 3 years    | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub> <b>Go to QB4</b>  |
| 3 years or more but less than 5 years    | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>7</sub> <b>Go to QB4</b>  |
| 5 years or more but less than 10 years   | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>8</sub> <b>Go to QB4</b>  |
| 10 years or more                         | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>9</sub> <b>Go to QB5</b>  |
| Don't know                               | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>10</sub> <b>Go to QB4</b> |

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

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

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

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

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

---

---

---

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

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

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

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

---

b: What type of accommodation is it?

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

---

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

---



## SECTION C: TRAVELLING

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

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

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

QC7. Have you travelled in the last 12 months?

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

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

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

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

---

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

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

---

## SECTION D: PREVIOUS HOUSING EXPERIENCES

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

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

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

---

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

---

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

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

---

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

---

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

---

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

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

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

Lack of sites <sub>7</sub>

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

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

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

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

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

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

---

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

Very good <sub>1</sub>

Good <sub>2</sub>

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

Poor <sub>4</sub>

Very poor <sub>5</sub>

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

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

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

## SECTION E: HOUSEHOLD DETAILS

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

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

**OFFICE USE ONLY**

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

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

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

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

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



QE7. Where do you/your family (mostly) work? **(Please tick ✓ one box only)**

- Within Lichfield <sub>1</sub>
  - Within Tamworth <sub>2</sub>
  - Within West Midlands <sub>3</sub>
  - Other parts of the UK **(please specify below)** <sub>4</sub>
- 
- Abroad <sub>5</sub>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## SECTION F: HEALTH SERVICES AND ISSUES

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

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

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

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

- Yes <sub>1</sub> **Go to QF3**  
 No <sub>2</sub> **Go to QF4**  
 Don't know <sub>3</sub> **Go to QF4**

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

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QF4. Do you or anyone in your household need support for any of the reasons listed below?  
**(Please tick ✓ all that apply)**

		Yes
1	Frail elderly	
2	A medical condition	
3	A physical disability	
4	A learning disability	
5	A mental health problem	
6	A sensory disability	
7	Other <b>(please specify below)</b>	

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## SECTION G: FUTURE ACCOMMODATION

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

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

QG2. Why do you need to move?

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

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

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

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

QG4. What accommodation are you looking for?

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

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

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

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

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

Within West Midlands <sub>3</sub>

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

Abroad <sub>5</sub>

QG6. Why this place?

**(Interviewer:**

**a. Tick all the reasons that apply**

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

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

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

Yes <sub>1</sub>

No <sub>2</sub>

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

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

**(Please tick ✓ one box only)**

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

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

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

---

Abroad <sub>5</sub>

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

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

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

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

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

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

---

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

---

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Within Lichfield <sub>1</sub>  
**(note: show map of authority and include specific place below)**  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Within Tamworth <sub>2</sub>  
**(note: show map of authority and include specific place below)**  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Within West Midlands <sub>3</sub>
- Other parts of the UK **(please specify below)** <sub>4</sub>  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Abroad <sub>5</sub>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

- Yes <sub>1</sub> **Go to QG25**  
No <sub>2</sub> **Go to QG26**  
Don't know <sub>3</sub> **Go to QG26**

QG25. Which list? Where?

---

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

- |    |   |                          |
|----|---|--------------------------|
| 1. | A pitch on a private site with planning permission    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. | A pitch on a private site without planning permission | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. | Land to be developed into a site                      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. | Cannot afford to purchase land or a pitch             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. | Not relevant <b>(please specify below)</b>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |

---

QG27. What does your rent / mortgage cost **in total** per week or month for your current accommodation approximately? **(Please tick ✓ one box only)**

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

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

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

**Thank you very much for your time**

For further details on the study please contact:

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