

Ribble Valley Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment

Final report

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March 2008



About the Authors

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

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Acknowledgements

Thanks goes to Louise Wallace from Ribble Valley Borough Council for providing vital information, without which the study could not have been completed.

Special thanks must go to the Gypsies and Travellers 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 does not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the research commissioning authorities, or any participating stakeholders and agencies. The authors take responsibility for any inaccuracies or omissions in the report.

Executive Summary

The Study

Recent legislation and guidance from the government has indicated a commitment to taking steps to resolve some of the long standing accommodation issues for members of the Gypsy and Traveller communities. This legislation has an overarching aim of ensuring that members of the Gypsy and Traveller communities have equal access to decent and appropriate accommodation options akin to each and every other member of society. As a result, a number of Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments (GTAAs) are now being undertaken across the UK, as local authorities respond to these new obligations and requirements.

The research and report were commissioned by Ribble Valley Borough Council in October 2007. The study was conducted by a team of researchers from the Salford Housing & Urban Studies Unit at the University of Salford.

The assessment was undertaken by conducting:

- A review of available literature, data and secondary sources;
- A detailed questionnaire completed by housing and planning officers; and,
- A total of 10 interviews with local Gypsies and Travellers.

Background

Following the Housing Act 2004, local authorities have been preparing to develop and implement strategies to respond to the accommodation needs of the Gypsy and Traveller communities living in their areas as part of their wider housing strategies and the Regional Housing Strategy (RHS). Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments (GTAAs) are designed to provide the evidence needed to inform these strategies. However, as well as presenting evidence and information on accommodation needs at an immediate local level the evidence collected and analysis produced has a wider regional role. The assessment of accommodation need and pitch requirements are also to be fed into the Regional Planning Body (RPB), in this case the North West Regional Assembly (NWRA), for inclusion into the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). The RSS then specifies pitch numbers required (but not their location) for each local planning authority (LPA) in light of the GTAAs conducted and a strategic view of need, supply and demand across the region is taken. The local planning authority's Development Planning Document (DPD) then identifies specific sites to match pitch numbers from the RSS.

The remaining Lancashire authorities commissioned a sub-regional GTAA which was published in June 2007; this GTAA now completes the GTAA coverage for Lancashire.

Main Findings

Local Gypsies and Travellers and accommodation provision

There is no one source of information about the size of the Gypsy and Traveller population in the Study Area. Our best estimate is that there are at least 96 local Gypsies and Travellers. This is a very small population when compared to other local authority areas within the Lancashire sub-region.

There is only one form of accommodation provision for Gypsies and Travellers in the Study Area which is private site based. There are no socially rented sites and no unauthorised developments. There were also no yards for Travelling Showpeople in the Study Area.

There is **1 private site** in the Study Area accommodating 4 households. The residents of the site did not want to take part in the assessment.

Unauthorised encampments

The Caravan Count in July 2007 recorded 4 caravans on unauthorised encampments (on land not owned by Gypsies and Travellers). Records kept by the local authorities show that the Study Area experienced around 1-5 encampments over the previous full calendar year (2006). According to the authorities the average encampment size was around 3 caravans. Most encampments stayed for a relatively short period of time. There was no pattern to the encampments, rather there were small encampments occurring sporadically.

There was formal written policy for managing unauthorised encampments.

Gypsies and Travellers in bricks and mortar accommodation

Gypsies and Travellers were not currently included in the local authority housing and homelessness strategies. The local authority was unable to quantify the number of Gypsies and Travellers in social or private bricks and mortar housing.

The Study Team estimate that there are at least 20 Gypsy and Traveller households in bricks and mortar accommodation.

A total of 10 households living in bricks and mortar housing across the Study Area were interviewed. Six respondents were owner-occupiers, the remainder were private tenants. Six households still retained a trailer for travelling purposes. Most respondents viewed their home positively. Two respondents were planning to leave their accommodation in the future.

Characteristics of local Gypsies and Travellers

The survey of Gypsies and Travellers identified some of the important characteristics of the local population.

- Household size is larger than in the settled/non-Traveller population at 4 persons across the whole sample
- Most respondents felt they were 'local' to the area they were residing in. 'Family connections' was the main reason given when respondents were asked why they were living where they were.
- The sample consists entirely of Romany Gypsies (English).
- Half of the households have school age children, all of which regularly attend school.
- The Gypsy and Traveller population was relatively sedentary. However, a small number of respondents travelled either seasonally or once per year.
- Respondents tended to travel to numerous locations across the UK, the most common reason being for a holiday.

Gypsies and Travellers and housing-related support

There were no specific housing-related support services provided for Gypsies and Travellers in the Study Area.

The kind of housing-related services Gypsies and Travellers expressed an interest in receiving assistance with included: accessing a GP; support on planning; finding accommodation; support with pregnancy; assistance filling in forms; accessing legal services; and, support with issues of harassment.

Accommodation preferences and aspirations

All households were asked whether there was anyone living with them who were likely to want their own accommodation over the next 5 years (by 2012). No respondents reported there being anyone requiring their own accommodation.

Three households wanted to move from bricks and mortar housing to a long stay residential site. It was not indicated where they wanted this to be, with the exception of one person who wanted a site elsewhere in the UK.

Half of the respondents said they would be interested in using some form of transit provision while they were travelling. In all cases the type of provision requested was all in the form of 'designated stopping places'.

Respondents were asked to comment on a range of differing accommodation types in order to ascertain their preferences. The clear preference was for a small private site which they/their family owned, followed by a family owned house. Living on a site owned by a private landlord or livings in a socially rented/housing association house were the least favoured option. This highlights that owner occupation was a clear preference for respondents. This also indicates that there may be some suppressed need for site based accommodation from those households currently accommodated in bricks and mortar housing.

Accommodation need and supply

Nationally, there are no signs that the growth in the Gypsy and Traveller population will slow significantly. The supply of additional authorised accommodation has slowed since 1994, but the size of the population of Gypsies and Travellers does not appear to have been affected to a great extent. Instead, the way in which Gypsies and Travellers live has changed, with increases in unauthorised accommodation, innovative house dwelling arrangements (living in trailers in the grounds of houses), overcrowding on sites and overcrowding within accommodation units (trailers, houses, chalets, etc.).

The 'models' for assessing the requirement for additional residential pitches, for Gypsies and Travellers, have developed significantly over the past few years. The calculation used here is an adaptation of the example provided by the CLG.¹ The calculation for years 1-5 (2007-2012) takes account of need arising from the following indicators: expiry of temporary planning permissions, household growth, need from unauthorised developments, movement between sites and housing, need from closing sites, and need from households on unauthorised encampments. On the supply side the calculation takes account of: pitch vacancies on socially rented sites, unused pitches, and known/planned developments of sites/pitches. These calculations are estimates based on information drawn from: local authority information, survey findings and assumptions based on the professional experience of the Study Team.

Additional requirements beyond 2012 are based on estimated household growth. This is assumed to be a 3% increase each year following commonly accepted assumptions as to the growth of the population.²

Transit requirements (2007-2012) are calculated by the average number of households on unauthorised encampments in the area. No further transit

¹ CLG (2007) *Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments – Guidance*. London: HMSO.

² Household growth rates of 2% and 3% a year were suggested as appropriate in Pat Niner, *Local Authority Gypsy/Traveller Sites in England*, ODP, 2003. A 3% growth rate was also used in the recent report from Communities and Local Government (2007) *Preparing Regional Spatial Strategy reviews on Gypsies and Travellers by regional planning bodies*. HMSO.

provision is estimated to be required beyond 2012 on the assumption that the level of travelling will not increase in the foreseeable future and other surrounding local authorities will also have developed appropriate transit options.

The estimated requirements are summarised below:

Residential pitch need:

- Total additional residential pitch need 2007- 2012 = **5 pitches**
- Total additional residential pitch need 2012 – 2016 = **1 pitch**

Transit need:

- Total additional need for transit provision = **6 caravans**

It is recommended that this transit provision takes the form of designated stopping places as opposed to purpose built transit sites. This will need to be reviewed then the usage of such sites is clear.

Travelling Showpeople plot need:

- There was no need identified for Travelling Showpeople within the Study Area.

Similar to the wider Lancashire sub-regional GTAA these accommodation requirements have been identified on a '**need where it is seen to arise**' basis. This distribution reflects the current uneven distribution of pitch provision and the Gypsy and Traveller population across the Study Area. A number of authorities which border the Ribble Valley currently have significant provision for Gypsies and Travellers and have significant needs identified within their boundaries; as each local authority cannot be viewed in isolation from another these needs might be effectively met within the Ribble Valley and vice versa. It is recommended that decisions about where need should be met should be strategic, taken in partnership with the authorities which compose the Lancashire sub-region, the neighbouring authorities and the North West Regional Assembly – involving consultation with Gypsies and Travellers and other interested parties – which will take into account wider social and economic planning considerations such as equity, choice and sustainability.

Recommendations

The overarching recommendation resulting from this assessment is that the authorities across the Ribble Valley Study Area engage pro-actively to meet the accommodation needs that have been identified and that a strategic joined-up approach is taken. More specifically, a total of 28 recommendations have been made for Ribble Valley Borough Council – these can be found in the main report.

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Glossary

The following terms are used in this report and may need some clarification. It is noted that a number of these terms are often contested and debated. It is not the intention of the authors to present these terms as absolute definitions rather; the explanations provided are those the authors used in this assessment as their frames of reference.

Term	Explanation
Amenity block/shed	On most residential Gypsy/Travellers sites these are buildings where basic plumbing amenities (bath/shower, WC and sink) are provided at the rate of one building per pitch.
Authorised local authority site/Registered Social Landlord site	An authorised site owned by either the local authority or a Registered Social Landlord.
Authorised Private site	An authorised site owned by a private individual (who may or may not be a Gypsy or a Traveller). These sites can be owner-occupied, rented or a mixture of owner-occupied and rented pitches.
Bricks and mortar	Permanent mainstream housing
Caravan	Mobile living vehicle used by Gypsies and Travellers. Also referred to as trailers.
Chalet	In the absence of a specific definition the term 'chalet' is used here to refer to single storey residential units which resemble mobile homes but can be dismantled.
Development Plan Documents (DPDs)	Documents which outline the key development goals of the Local Development Framework
Doubling-up	To share a pitch on an authorised site
Gaujo/Gorger	Literal translation indicates someone who is not of the Romany Gypsy race. Romany word used mainly, but not exclusively, by Romany Gypsies to refer to members of the settled community/non-Gypsy/Travellers
Green Belt	A policy or land use designation used to retain areas of largely undeveloped, wild, or agricultural land surrounding or neighbouring urban areas.
Gypsy	Members of Gypsy or Traveller communities. Usually used to describe Romany (English) Gypsies originating from India. This term is not acceptable to all Travellers
Gypsies and Travellers (as used in this assessment)	Consistent with the Housing Act 2004, inclusive of: all Gypsies, Irish Travellers, New Travellers, Show People, Circus People and Gypsies and Travellers in bricks and mortar accommodation. Can also include Roma and boat dwellers if there is evidence of a need, suppressed or otherwise, for pitch accommodation.
Local Plan/Local Development	A set of documents which a Local Planning

Framework (LDF)	Authority creates to describe their strategy for development and use of land in their area of authority.
Mobile home	Legally classified as a caravan but not usually moveable without dismantling/or lorry
Pitch/plot	Area of land on a site/development generally home to one licensee household. Can be varying sizes and have varying caravan occupancy levels. Often also referred to as a plot, particularly in relation to Travelling Showpeople. There is no agreed definition as to the size of a pitch.
Pulling-up	To park a trailer/caravan
Settled community/people	Reference to non-Travellers (those that live in houses)
Site	An authorised area of land on which Gypsies and Travellers are accommodated in trailers/chalets/vehicles. Can contain one or multiple pitches.
Static caravan	Larger caravan than the 'tourer' type. Can be moved but only with the use of a large vehicle. Often referred to simply as a trailer.
Stopping place	Locations frequented by Gypsies and Travellers, usually for short periods of time.
Supporting People	A funding programme which provides grants in order to assist in the provision of housing related support to develop and sustain an individuals capacity to live independently in their accommodation.
Suppressed/concealed household	Households, living within other households, who are unable to set up separate family units and who are unable to access a place on an authorised site, or obtain or afford land to develop one.
Trailer	Term commonly used by Gypsies and Travellers to refer to a moveable caravan
Transit site	Site intended for short stays. Such sites are usually permanent, but there is a limit on the length of time residents can stay.
Travelling Showpeople	Commonly referred to as Showmen, these are a group of occupational Travellers who work on travelling shows and fairs across the UK and abroad
Unauthorised Development	This refers to a caravan/trailer or group of caravans/trailers on land owned (possibly developed) by Gypsies and Travellers without planning permission
Unauthorised Encampment	Stopping on private/public land without permission (e.g. at the side of the road)
Yard	Term used by Travelling Showpeople to refer to a site

List of Acronyms

CLG	Communities and Local Government
CJPOA	Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994
CRE	Commission for Racial Equality
DPD	Development Plan Document
GTAA	Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment
LGA	Local Government Association
LPA	Local Planning Authority
NWRA	North West Regional Assembly
ODPM	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
RHB	Regional Housing Board
RHS	Regional Housing Strategy
RPB	Regional Planning Body
RSL	Registered Social Landlord
RSS	Regional Spatial Strategy
SHUSU	Salford Housing & Urban Studies Unit
TES	Traveller Education Service

Note: Over the last few years the main Governmental department largely responsible for Gypsy and Traveller related issues (in particular regarding housing and planning) has been subject to certain degree of reform. This can cause confusion. The main changes are summarised below.

Until 2001 the **Department for Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR)** was the responsible department for these issues. In 2001 responsibility was passed to the **Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions (DTLR)**. In 2002 the **Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM)** took control of these issues (within which the Gypsy and Traveller Unit was founded) with this being replaced by the **Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG)** in 2006.

1. Overview

This report presents the findings of an assessment of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers within the administration of Ribble Valley Borough Council. The research and report were commissioned by the authority in October 2007. The study was conducted by a team of researchers from the Salford Housing & Urban Studies Unit at the University of Salford.

The Lancashire sub-region carried out a Lancashire wide Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) in June 2007; Ribble Valley Borough Council did not participate in this sub-regional assessment. The production of this study for Ribble Valley Borough Council now completes the assessment of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation need across the Lancashire sub-region.

The authors of this report were also members of the Study Team who produced both the Lancashire sub-regional study³, referred to above, and a North West regional study, commissioned by the North West Regional Assembly⁴. Where relevant, information gathered and produced as part of these assessments is included here in order to situate the Ribble Valley GTAA in a broader context. It is recommended that this report is read, and situated, alongside the North West GTAA and the Lancashire sub-regional GTAA.

1.1 Background and study brief

Enshrined within the Caravan Sites Act 1968 was a duty upon local authorities to provide sites to Gypsies and Travellers residing in and resorting to their boroughs. As a result of the measures contained within the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, this duty was removed. Over the subsequent years, coupled with continued migration, travelling patterns and household formation, this has meant that the numbers of Gypsies and Travellers requiring authorised places to live/stop far exceed the number of authorised pitches available. In addition to the lack of available authorised pitches, Gypsies and Travellers have also found gaining planning permission a major obstacle to providing sites for themselves and their families. Those Gypsies and Travellers who can afford to buy land are frequently in breach of planning laws when they attempt to develop that land for residential use. Subsequently, they find themselves subject to enforcement action and often evicted, frequently resorting to the use of further unauthorised land/accommodation.

³ Brown, P. *et al* (2007) Lancashire Sub-regional Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation and Related Services Assessments, Salford: University of Salford.

⁴ Brown, P. *et al* (2007) North West Regional Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation and Related Services Assessment, Salford: University of Salford.

Under Section 8 of the Housing Act 1985, local authorities are required to consider the various accommodation needs of the local population and to carry out periodic reviews in order to provide relevant and appropriate provision to meet these needs. Recent legislation (Housing Act 2004 and Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004) and guidance (Circular 01/2006) from the government indicate a commitment to taking steps to resolve some of these long standing issues for members of the Gypsy and Traveller communities. This legislation has an overarching aim of ensuring that members of the Gypsy and Traveller communities have equal access to decent and appropriate accommodation options akin to each and every other member of society.

Following the Housing Act 2004, local authorities have been preparing to develop and implement strategies to respond to the accommodation needs of the Gypsy and Traveller communities living in their areas as part of their wider housing strategies and the Regional Housing Strategy (RHS). Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments (GTAAs) are designed to provide the evidence needed to inform these strategies. However, as well as presenting evidence and information on accommodation needs at an immediate local level the evidence collected and analysis produced have a wider regional role. The assessment of accommodation need and pitch requirements are also to be fed into the Regional Planning Body (RPB), in this case the North West Regional Assembly (NWRA), for inclusion into the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). The RSS then specifies pitch numbers required (but not their location) for each local planning authority (LPA) in light of the GTAAs produced and a strategic view of need, supply and demand across the region. The local planning authority's Development Planning Document (DPD) then identifies specific sites to match pitch numbers from the RSS.

Each DPD is subject to examination in public, and one of the tests of soundness will be whether it is founded on robust and credible evidence: data received from GTAAs are fundamental in providing such an evidence base for the RHSs and RSSs.

The regional dimension is intended to ensure that all local authorities contribute to resolving the current shortage of authorised site accommodation in a strategic manner, which helps redress current imbalances in the pattern of provision, and enhances the sustainability of the Gypsy and Traveller site network. Such a strategic approach will contribute to meeting the Government's objective⁵ that 'Gypsies and Travellers and the settled community should live together peacefully', and to the greater social inclusion of Gypsies and Travellers who are amongst the most deprived groups in the population.

⁵ ODPM (2006) *Local authorities and Gypsies and Travellers: Guide to responsibilities and powers*, ODPM, p. 5,
http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/400/LocalAuthoritiesandGypsiesandTravellersGuidetoresponsibilitiesandpowersPDF223KB_id1163400.pdf

The vast majority of Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments (GTAAAs) across England are either completed or in progress.

1.2 Aims of the assessment

The main aim of the assessment was to produce a comprehensive assessment of existing and future accommodation and wider service needs within the Ribble Valley Study Area. Within this broad aim there were several objectives:

- To produce detailed information about local Gypsies and Travellers in relation to their demographic profile, household formation, current accommodation needs, accommodation related service and support needs and barriers to accessing services.
- To assess the current and potential future accommodation needs within the Ribble Valley Study Area
- To generate reliable estimates of future accommodation need.

1.3 A note on terminology

Gypsies and Travellers

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

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

- (a) persons with a cultural tradition of nomadism or of living in a caravan; and*
- (b) all other persons of a nomadic habit of life, whatever their race or origin, including:*
 - (i) such persons who, on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependant's educational or health needs or old age, have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently; and*
 - (ii) members of an organised group of travelling showpeople or circus people (whether or not travelling together as such).*

There is a separate definition for planning purposes as specified in ODPM Circular 01/2006 which offers a narrower definition and excludes Travelling Showpeople.

This assessment has adopted the Housing Act 2004 definition and has sought to be inclusive in the Gypsy and Traveller groupings. More specifically we sought to include all Gypsies and Travellers (including New Travellers) living in caravan based accommodation or bricks and mortar housing. As the Housing Act 2004 definition indicates, we have also sought to include Travelling Showpeople living on their permanent base within the Study Area, if relevant.

Housing/accommodation need

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.”⁶

In recognising that in many cases these definitions are inappropriate for Gypsies and Travellers, the guidance on Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments 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:⁷

- 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.

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).

This assessment has used a definition of accommodation need which encompasses all the circumstances detailed above.

⁶ODPM (2006) Definition of the term 'Gypsies and Travellers' for the purposes of the Housing Act 2004. Consultation Paper, February, London: HMSO.

⁷ CLG (2007) *Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments – Guidance*. London: HMSO.

1.4 Outline of the report

Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments are a relatively new tool to assist local authorities and stakeholders to understand and gain knowledge on the needs, experiences and context of a collection of individuals who have usually not featured, or only on the margins, of other similar assessments. The information available pertaining to Gypsies and Travellers is often spread across a wide range of issues and held by a diverse group of departments and agencies. Thus, the collection and collation of this information entails a systematic process and this is reflected in the structure of this report.

Chapter 1 sets the background to the needs assessment, the aims of the assessment and a comment on the terms 'Gypsy and Traveller' and 'Housing/accommodation need'.

Chapter 2 presents details of the methodological process and research methods involved in the assessment as well as a commentary on the sampling strategy and sampling issues.

Chapter 3 sets the legislative and policy context for the assessment at a national, regional and local level.

Chapters 4 provides some detailed analysis of the local Gypsy and Traveller population by looking at the bi-annual Caravan Count for the area and the characteristics of the sample involved in the assessment.

Chapter 5 looks at the findings relating to authorised Gypsy and Traveller sites, including issues of planning.

Chapter 6 examines the findings relating to the unauthorised development of Gypsy and Traveller sites, and an analysis of unauthorised encampments.

Chapter 7 looks at Gypsies and Travellers in private and social bricks and mortar housing, with particular attention to local authority policies relating to Gypsies and Travellers in housing, numbers in housing and views from the housed Gypsy and Traveller population about their accommodation.

Chapter 8 looks at the specific findings in relation to Travelling Showpeople.

Chapter 9 - 10 brings together a range of findings to explore housing/related services and how they are provided for, experienced and viewed by Gypsies and Travellers, as well as exploring education, employment and health issues.

Chapters 11 - 12 examine the accommodation histories, intentions and travelling patterns of the Gypsy and Traveller population, as well as looking at accommodation aspirations.

Chapter 13 brings together data on the supply of, and need for, Gypsy and Traveller residential and transit pitches, and pitches for Travelling Showpeople. This chapter comments on the type, level and broad location of the accommodation needed.

Finally, Chapter 14 sets out some recommendations based on the assessment for future work on site provision, housing policy and other policy and practice areas.

2. The assessment methodology

Draft practice guidance for local authorities undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments was released by the ODPM (now CLG) in February 2006 with final guidance released in October 2007. Specialised guidance on assessments was felt to be required as many local authority housing needs assessments were 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 incorporate a number of components. Such components include existing data sources; the experiences and knowledge of key stakeholders; and, the living conditions and views of Gypsies and Travellers.

This assessment was undertaken in two distinct stages:

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

Each of these stages is described in more detail below.

2.1 Stage one: Collation and review of existing secondary information

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

- The bi-annual Count of Gypsy and Traveller caravans.
- Local plans, Regional and Core Strategy documents and other literature relevant to Local Development Frameworks. Housing Strategies, Homelessness Strategies and Supporting People Strategies were analysed, as were allocation and monitoring procedures.
- Various records and data maintained and provided by the local authority. Information was obtained on: private sites; unauthorised sites (developments and encampments); housing; and, planning applications.

Much of this information was collected via an extensive self-completion questionnaire sent to the local authority, and joint-working between housing, planning, health and education was required in order to provide a completed

questionnaire. The aim was to collate the most up-to-date information; however, we also included data from a previous questionnaire completed for the North West GTAA, where relevant. The questionnaire used in the assessment is available in Appendix 1 of this report.

2.2 Stage two: Survey with Gypsies and Travellers

One of the most important aspects of GTAAs is the consultation that takes place with local Gypsies and Travellers. This posed particular challenges for the Study Team as the 'known' population consists of one authorised private site. There were no 'known' unauthorised sites and Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar accommodation were largely hidden. The survey took place between October 2007 and February 2008.

Given the absence of accurate information concerning the size and location of the communities the sampling of Gypsy and Traveller households was problematic. As such, the sampling technique for the assessment was purposive rather than strictly random and differed depending upon the particular accommodation type currently inhabited by Gypsies and Travellers in the Ribble Valley.

- Information from the local authority indicated that there were no socially rented sites, no unauthorised development of sites, and no yards accommodating Travelling Showpeople in the Study Area. As a result, respondents from such accommodation were not sampled.
- Information from the local authority indicated that there was one private site in the Study Area. Households on this site declined participation in the assessment. This was despite efforts by both the core research team and a Community Interviewer to engage with the residents on the site.
- For households on unauthorised encampments, local authority officers were encouraged to inform the fieldwork team when and where encampments occurred during the fieldwork period. We also encouraged our Community Interviewer to use their networks in order to link with households on unauthorised encampments in the area. The Study Team were not made aware of any encampments during the fieldwork period. However, this is not the same as saying the area is not attractive or a pull for people who reside on unauthorised encampments within the Ribble Valley Study Area.
- 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 the contacts of the Gypsy and Traveller Community Interviewer on the fieldwork team. Equally, due to the lack of knowledge about the size of

the population, it is unknown how reflective the sample contained within this GTAA is.

A total of 10 Gypsy and Traveller households were involved in the assessment within the boundary of the Ribble Valley Study Area. These interviews were all carried out with people living in bricks and mortar accommodation. Rather than presenting this information in percentages, which would be meaningless given the small sample size, we refer to each as individual cases throughout the report.

Questionnaire design

In all cases 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 interviews with Gypsy and Traveller households utilised a structured questionnaire with 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/site/encampment;
- Experience of travelling;
- Housing and site experiences;
- Household details;
- Services; and,
- Future accommodation preferences/aspirations.

Following previous consultation with Gypsies and Travellers and experience of previous GTAAs, questions around income and benefits were excluded as these were seen to potentially jeopardise the ability to achieve interviews in the Study Area due to the alienation that such questions can cause with the communities.

The questionnaire used in the assessment is available in Appendix 2 of this report.

Fieldwork and interviewers

In addition to SHUSU fieldwork staff, and of crucial importance to engaging as effectively as possible with the Gypsy and Traveller population, was the involvement of a Gypsy and Traveller Community Interviewer. They were from outside the Ribble Valley Study Area, but had excellent links with members of the Gypsy and Traveller community. This individual had also worked with the study team on previous assessments so was an experienced interviewer, familiar with the interviewing process for GTAAs.

In order to standardise our fieldwork approach, the Community Interviewer has undergone an intensive training course on interviewer skills, and is

provided with support from the core study team members during their interviewing activity. In addition, each questionnaire that was returned was subject to extensive quality control.

3. National, regional and local policy context

For the most part Gypsies and Travellers are affected by legislation in much the same way as members of the non-Travelling communities. However, it is the policy areas of housing and planning that have particular implications for Gypsies and Travellers. In recognising that there is a significant lack of accommodation options for the various Gypsy and Traveller groups, a plethora of documents have been published over the last 18 months, which directly affect specific policies towards Gypsies and Travellers. This section looks at the relevant national, regional and local planning policies affecting Gypsies and Travellers at the time of the assessment.

3.1 National policy

The main document detailing the broad aims of the currently policy towards the accommodation and planning objectives for Gypsies and Travellers is Circular 01/06. In particular, this specifies that the aims of the legislation and policy developments are to:

- ensure that Gypsies and Travellers have fair access to suitable accommodation, education, health and welfare provision;
- reduce the number of unauthorised encampments;
- increase the number of sites and address under-provision over the next 3-5 years;
- protect the traditional travelling way of life of Gypsies and Travellers;
- underline the importance of assessing accommodation need at different geographical scales;
- promote private site provision; and,
- avoid Gypsies and Travellers becoming homeless, where eviction from unauthorised sites occurs and where there is no alternative accommodation.

An overview of the process and system for ensuring adequate provision is implemented for Gypsies and Travellers was detailed in Chapter 1 of this report.

In September 2007, revised planning guidance in relation to the specific planning requirements of Travelling Showpeople was released in Circular 04/07. This replaces Circular 22/91 and aims to ensure that the system for pitch assessment, identification and allocation as introduced for Gypsies and Travellers is also applied to Travelling Showpeople.

The Gypsy and Traveller Sites Grant provides capital funding for improving and increasing Gypsy and Traveller site/pitch provision by local authorities and Registered Social Landlords. From 2006-08 a national total of £56m has been made available, managed by the Regional Housing Boards or equivalents. In the North West, a total of £2.8m has been agreed over the 2006-08 period. Since 2006, Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) have been able to set up and manage Gypsy and Traveller sites. Both local authorities and RSLs are eligible for funding under the Gypsy and Traveller Sites Grant.

Since the introduction of the Housing Act 2004, it has been made clear that Gypsy and Traveller accommodation need and requirements should feature in local authority Housing and Homelessness⁸ Strategies. Authorities have been informed that, in line with their obligations under the Human Rights Act 1998, the needs and way of life of Gypsies and Travellers must be considered when considering accommodation applications.

The Government is also planning two Bills for the next session of Parliament which could impact upon Gypsies and Travellers - the Housing and Regeneration Bill and the Planning Reform Bill. Both these Bills could offer significant amendments to how accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers is provided.⁹

3.2 Regional policy

In terms of regional planning policy, Regional Planning Guidance for the North West (RPG13) (March 2003) did not mention Gypsies and Travellers. The North West Plan (the draft regional spatial strategy) which was submitted for consultation in 2006, noted within section 9 'Living in the North West – Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society' that:

'There is also the requirement to assess the housing needs of gypsies and travellers in the Region. In this respect, the Assembly, in partnership with the Regional Housing Board, is proposing to undertake research on the future requirements of gypsies and travellers, in order to inform a future review of both RSS and the Regional Housing Strategy.'

The Regional Spatial Strategy is currently being revised and a Partial Review is intended to commence in late 2007. The Partial Review will look at a number of issues including the apportionment of pitch requirements amongst local authorities. The Review will be informed by the results of each Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment completed across the North West.

⁸ See Homelessness & Housing Support Directorate (2006) Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities, CLG.

⁹ See the Traveller Law Reform Project for more specific issues and concerns <http://www.travellerslaw.org.uk/pdfs/housingregeneration.pdf>

Table 1 below shows the estimated sub-regional pitch requirements from the North West GTAA¹⁰. The estimated requirements for the North West region as a whole was 332-386 pitches for Gypsies and Travellers with an additional 189 plots for Travelling Showpeople.

Table 1: Summary of Residential Pitch Requirements: North West Region and Sub-regions: 2006 to 2011 Area Estimated requirement

Area	Estimated pitch requirement
Cheshire Partnership	79-112 + 17 pitches for Travelling Showpeople (TS)
Cumbria	12 + 16 pitches for TS
Greater Manchester	87 + 149 pitches for TS
Lancashire	126-147 + 7 pitches for TS
Merseyside	28
North West Region	332-386 + 189 pitches for TS

Table 2 below shows the requirements identified within the Lancashire sub-regional GTAA¹¹. This shows varied levels of need, with identified need tending to correspond with existing pitch based population.

Table 2: Residential accommodation need arising from existing district level Gypsy and Traveller populations 2006-2016

Authority	Current authorised provision (pitches)	Total additional residential need 2006–2011 (pitches)	Supply of pitches 2006-2011	Total additional residential need 2011-2016 (pitches)	Estimated supply of pitches 2011-2016	Total additional residential need 2006-2016 (less supply 2006-2016) (pitches)
Blackburn with Darwen	48	53-65	Nil	16 – 18	Nil	69 – 83
Blackpool	51	14	Nil	10	Nil	24
Burnley	0	5 – 6	Nil	1	Nil	5 – 7
Chorley	0	0	Nil	0	Nil	0
Fylde	2	1	Nil	0	Nil	1
Hyndburn	104	14 – 17 + 1 pitch for Travelling Showpeople	Nil	16	Nil	30 – 33 + 1 pitch for Travelling Showpeople
Lancaster	142	14 – 15	4	25	Nil	35 – 36
Pendle	0	2	Nil	0	Nil	2
Preston	12	14 – 16	Nil	4 – 5	Nil	18 – 21
Ribble Valley	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rossendale	0	0	Nil	0	Nil	0
South Ribble	0	0	Nil	0	Nil	0
West Lancashire	8	14 +	Nil	3	Nil	17 +

¹⁰ Brown, P. *et al* (2007) North West Regional Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation and Related Services Assessment, Salford: University of Salford.

¹¹ Brown, P. *et al* (2007) Lancashire Sub-regional Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation and Related Services Assessments, Salford: University of Salford.

		3 pitches for Travelling Showpeople				3 pitches for Travelling Showpeople
Wyre	0	0 + 3 pitches for Travelling Showpeople	Nil	0	Nil	0 + 3 pitches for Travelling Showpeople

Both of these assessments state that the calculation of pitch requirements is based upon the presence and proportion of existing populations. Thus need is identified on a 'need where is seen to arise' basis. The main message from these assessments is that meeting this need should be done more widely, with those local authority areas that currently provide little pitch based accommodation being encouraged to provide more accommodation options for Gypsies and Travellers.

In line with ODPM Circular 01/2006, the Interim Statement urges local authorities in areas with proven need to act to make provision in advance of the full regional planning process, and to use the various available powers to ensure sites are developed.

3.3 Local plans

Ribble Valley's current development plan includes a policy towards Gypsy and Traveller sites. They indicated that there were no relevant policies for Gypsy and Traveller sites in current or emerging Development Plan Documents under the new planning system, highlighting that the LDF is at an early stage and policies are yet to be developed.

It was indicated that there were no sites/locations considered as suitable for Gypsy and Traveller development; however, they stated that the results of the GTAA would inform this.

With regards to what sorts of areas would be deemed suitable for Gypsy and Traveller site provision or the criteria that would satisfy a successful planning application, it was indicated that Policy H22 would be applied. Policy H22 states:

Where there is an identified need proposals for gypsy sites will be approved, subject to the following criteria:

The proposal must not conflict with the other policies of this plan, in particular Policy G1, G5, G6, G7, G8, ENV1 and ENV4

Proposals must not adversely affect a SSSI or a site of biological importance

The proposal must not have an adverse impact on the character of the environment or the character of the landscape

Proposals should involve the reuse of derelict land where possible

The site should have good access to primary and other main routes

The site should be within reasonable proximity to services

The development must not involve the loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land.

Government guidance set out in Circular 1/94 stresses that it is important for local plans to contain policies relating to the provision of sites. As a rule it will not be appropriate to make provision for gypsy sites in areas of open land where development is severely restricted i.e. within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

In addition gypsy sites are not regarded as being among those uses of land appropriate to Green Belt land or areas where nature conservation interests would be affected. Sites should also be well related to the pattern of service provision including schools, shops and other community facilities. In the implementation of this policy the Borough Council will exercise their discretionary powers in relation to providing sites under Section 24 of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960.

It is clear that this policy is not pro-active and excludes the possibility for the development of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation within the Green Belt.

3.4 Caravan numbers and trends from the Caravan Count

At present the bi-annual Caravan Count remains the only official source of information on the size and distribution of a population that remains relatively unknown. Although certain local authorities are able to provide very accurate information for the Count, generally speaking the Count needs to be treated with caution. According to the most recent Caravan Count (July 2007), there were a reported total of 4 caravans across the Ribble Valley, all of which were on unauthorised encampments (not tolerated). There were no caravans counted on the private site with the Borough.

Looking at the Caravan Count figures between over a number of years (1998 – 2007) shows very few caravans, with small encampments (up to 10 caravans) occurring sporadically.

4. Size and characteristics of the local Gypsy and Traveller population

This chapter aims to provide some information on the demographics of the sample involved in this accommodation assessment, and uses this to make some indication of the overall size and composition of the Gypsy and Traveller population in the Ribble Valley Study Area.

4.1 Demographic and household characteristics

Characteristics of Gypsy and Traveller communities are often hidden or not widely known. Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments present an ideal opportunity to get to know more about the community at large, particularly in terms of living circumstances, age, Gypsy and Traveller groups and household composition. The following aims to provide some information about the composition of Gypsy and Traveller households in the sample. However, it must be noted that the sample size for this study was small.

Age and gender of interviewees

The age profile of the sample can be seen from Table 3. The 25-39 age group were the most consulted during the assessment, forming 50% of the total sample.

Table 3: Age of interviewees

Age Group	No.
16-24	-
25-39	5
40-49	2
50-59	-
60-74	2
75-84	1
Total	10

The sample consisted of 8 male and 2 female respondents.

Household size

In total, the survey sample accounts for 44 members of the Gypsy and Traveller community in the Ribble Valley Study Area. The average household size for the whole sample is 4 persons – larger than the household size of the non-Traveller population, and larger than the household size found in the many other GTAAs. The household size ranged from 1 – 7 people.

With regards to the number of children represented in the sample, 7 of the 10 respondents indicated that they had children¹². There were a total of 25 children.

¹² Anyone aged 16 or under is identified as a child.

Table 4 below shows the number and age range of children.

Table 4: Number and age of children

Age Group	No.
0-4	13
5-10	9
11-16	3
Total	25

Marital status

In total, 9 of the 10 people interviewed were married. One person was widowed.

Local connections to the Study Area

When asked, half of households felt that they were local to the area where they were currently accommodated and half said they were not. The main reason for residing in the area was because they had family living in the area (9 out of 10 respondents). Three people indicated that the Study Area was their place of birth, and one reported that they lived in the study area because they were “*brought up in surrounding areas*”. Thus, from these findings the respondents can be seen to ‘belong’, in some way, to the Study Area.

Gypsy and Traveller groups

All of the respondents classified themselves as Romany/Gypsy (English).

4.2 The size of the local Gypsy and Traveller community

For most minority ethnic communities, presenting data about the size of the community in question is usually relatively straightforward (with the exception of communities who have large numbers of irregular migrants and migrant workers, etc. amongst them). However, for Gypsies and Travellers, one of the most difficult issues is providing accurate information on this population. As a result, we have used information provided by the local authorities and others, together with our survey findings, in order to provide a best estimate as to the size of the Ribble Valley Gypsy and Traveller population at the time of the assessment (see Table 5 below). Due to their mobility levels this estimate does not include households on unauthorised encampments.

Table 5: Estimated Ribble Valley Study Area Gypsy and Traveller population

Type of accommodation	Families/Households	Individuals	Derivation
Private sites	4	16	Estimated number of families resident on site based on local authority information multiplied by average household size from the survey (4) ¹³
Housing	20 ¹⁴	80	Number of families estimated to live in the area multiplied by average household size from the survey (4)
Total	24	96	

We estimate that there are at least 96 Gypsies and Travellers in the Study Area, although the estimate for housed Gypsies and Travellers is likely to be an under-estimate.

¹³ Based on bricks and mortar household size.

¹⁴ During the fieldwork we interviewed 10 households. It was suggested by our Community Interviewer that there were a number of other households within the Ribble Valley Study Area. It seems reasonable to assume that the minimum bricks and mortar population is 20 households.

5. Authorised Gypsy and Traveller sites

This chapter looks at a range of issues around Gypsies and Travellers providing pitches/sites for themselves within the Study Area. In particular, this looks at private authorised provision, planning applications and planning issues in relation to the development of Gypsy and Traveller caravan sites. Data from the local authorities and Gypsies and Travellers are explored.

5.1 Socially rented provision

There are no socially rented sites in the Ribble Valley Study Area. The local authority indicated that there had been no socially rented sites/pitches closed since 1994. There were also no plans to provide socially rented sites over the next 5 years.

5.2 Private authorised site provision

There is one private site in the Study Area. Information provided by the local authority indicates that this site has permission for 8 residential and 8 touring caravans. It is indicated that this number had remained static since 2001. The nature of the planning consent for this site is listed as: Retrospective application for siting additional caravans for 4 families.

As mentioned previously, the caravans on this site do not appear to be included in any of the bi-annual Caravan Counts since 2001.

The residents of this site did not want to participate in this assessment.

Planning applications

With regards to planning applications involving the development or extension of Gypsy and Traveller sites since 2001, only two applications had been received and these related to the existing private site in the Study Area. One was for an increase from 3 to 4 residential caravans and 4 touring caravans. The second planning application was for a proposed animal feeding building on the site. Both applications were approved.

We asked the local authority to identify areas of good practice with regards to the planning approach and they highlighted the following:

“The Planning Authority is always seeking to be actively involved in discussing ideas with possible developers and encourages early dialogue regarding potential applications”.

With regards to whether or not it was likely for the number of private authorised Gypsy and Traveller sites to increase over the next 5 years, it was felt that this would be informed by the findings of the GTAA.

The experience of Gypsies and Travellers in relation to planning

We were keen to explore, with Gypsies and Travellers, their experience of buying land and/or going through the planning process.

We asked all respondents if they had ever purchased their own land; only 1 respondent had, at some time in the past, bought their own land. They indicated that they applied for planning permission after buying the land. We asked them to elaborate on this experience, and they reported the following:

“We put in for planning and the locals got a 200 name petition against us and we never got permission”

It is unclear from the findings where this occurred.

6. Unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller sites

This chapter looks at a range of issues around Gypsies and Travellers residing on unauthorised sites the Study Area. Data from the local authorities is explored.

6.1 Unauthorised development of Gypsy and Traveller sites

With reference to the unauthorised development of Gypsy and Traveller sites, it was indicated there were currently none in the Study Area. The authority had not experienced, or taken any action against, any unauthorised developments since 2001. Similarly, it was not expected that the number of unauthorised developments would increase over the next 5 years.

Information provided by the local authority for the North West assessment indicated that there had been the unauthorised development of one Gypsy and Traveller site in the Study Area since 2000. More recent information from Ribble Valley Borough Council indicates that since 2001 there have been no unauthorised developments. It is the assumption of the Study Team that the current private authorised site was originally an unauthorised development until planning permission was granted.

6.2 Unauthorised encampments

The presence and incidence of unauthorised encampments is a significant issue impacting upon local authorities, landowners, Gypsies and Travellers, the settled population and the public purse. Unauthorised encampments are often the type of accommodation which has become synonymous with Gypsies and Travellers and is often a further source of tension with the wider community.

Due to the nature of unauthorised encampments (i.e. unpredictability, seasonal fluctuations etc.), it is very difficult to grasp a comprehensive picture of need for residential and/or transit accommodation without considering a range of interconnected issues. This section, however, seeks to look at the 'known' prevalence of unauthorised encampments in the Study Area.

Policies on managing unauthorised encampments

Ribble Valley Borough Council does not currently have a written policy for managing unauthorised encampments. There are no joint agreements or protocols with other agencies (i.e. Police, other LAs) with regards to managing encampments. With regards to who normally makes first contact with Gypsies and Travellers on unauthorised encampments, it was indicated that the following agencies could be the first contact:

- A Council officer

- Police
- Bailiff
- Lancashire County Council Highways

Incidence of unauthorised encampments

The authority reported that they keep records of all known encampments in the Study Area. During 2006, it was reported that there were 1 – 5 encampments. An exact number was not given; details of location, number of caravans, duration and action taken were provided for two encampments that were recorded in 2006. These encampments both occurred during the summer 2006 and lasted for 5 days. The first involved 3 trucks and 1 horse and in this instance Lancashire County Council served notice. The second encampment involved 3 caravans and 3 horses, and they moved on after a Ribble Valley Council officer and the landowner spoke to the people who were encamped.

Trends in unauthorised encampments

The authority was asked how the number and size of unauthorised encampments had changed over the past 5 years. It was indicated that both the number and size had remained the same. In terms of the time of year encampments occurred, it was reported that more occurred in summer. It was also felt that most unauthorised encampments were people who were 'in transit' as opposed to local to the area.

Overall, it was suggested that on average there were very few encampments in the Ribble Valley Study Area and that those that did occur lasted only a few days at a time. The authority did not feel that there had been any observable changes in the pattern of unauthorised encampments over the last 5 years; however, they did make the following comments in relation to increases in tipping of rubbish:

“It has been noted that there has been an increase in problems with tipping on sites where Travellers have been in recent years. It would seem that this is connected to their economic activity, i.e. some evidence of collection of heavy household goods that are then being left on site”

When asked how they expected the number of encampments to change over the next 5 years, the authority reported that they did not know.

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

The number of Gypsies and Travellers currently accommodated within bricks and mortar accommodation is unknown, but potentially large. Movement to and from housing is a major concern if the strategic approach, policies and working practices of local authorities are to remain effective.

One of the main issues of the consultation revolved around the role that housing services do, should and could play in the accommodation of Gypsies and Travellers within the Study Area.

This chapter looks at the information held by the local authority around Gypsies and Travellers and housing and looks at the approach the authority takes. The chapter then continues with analysing the responses of housed Gypsies and Travellers who took part in the assessment.

7.1 Housing policies

It was reported that Gypsies and Travellers were not included in the current housing or homelessness strategy. The authority does not have a BME housing strategy. It was also reported that Gypsies and Travellers were not recorded in ethnic monitoring of social housing applications and allocations.

7.2 Gypsies and Travellers in housing

The authority was asked if they could quantify the number of allocations and registrations for social housing for Gypsies and Travellers. It was indicated that the number of Gypsies and Travellers currently registered for, or living in, social housing was unknown. Information provided in the questionnaire for the North West assessment in 2006; however, suggests that there are less than 10 families living in social housing in the Ribble Valley Study Area.

The authority was asked to provide details of how Gypsies and Travellers would be supported through the homelessness process. They offered the following comments:

“No presentations; however, all homeless applicants are offered floating support services. These are provided by Carr Gomm for hostel residents and Calico for all other applicants”

There was no information on either the number of Gypsies and Travellers moving into social rented housing over the past 5 years, or the expected number of Gypsies and Travellers moving into socially rented housing over the next 5 years.

It was indicated that it was not known how many Gypsies and Travellers were currently living in social rented housing in the Study Area and there was no information on the distribution of Gypsies and Travellers on particular estates.

When asked to comment on the experience of Gypsies and Travellers moving into housing, the following comments were offered:

“This is really not known in Ribble Valley as this is not one of the BME groups recorded. The Police Liaison Officer advises that to his knowledge no Gypsies or Travellers are currently are not resident in bricks and mortar”

Information provided for the North West assessment in 2006, however, suggested that the three most important reasons for Gypsies and Travellers moving into housing were:

- Want to ‘settle’
- Unable to find stopping places when travelling
- For children’s schooling

There was no information with regards to the number of Gypsies and Travellers living in private housing or any issues arising in relation to Gypsies and Travellers living in private housing in the Ribble Valley Study Area.

Based on our sample of 10 households and the information provided by our Community Interviewer, it seems reasonable to assume that there are at least 20 households living in bricks and mortar accommodation in the Ribble Valley Study Area.

7.3 Living in bricks and mortar housing – views from Gypsies and Travellers

Among the 10 respondents whom we consulted who lived in bricks and mortar accommodation, 7 lived in a house and 3 lived in a bungalow. In total, 6 of the bricks and mortar dwellers were owner-occupiers and 4 were private tenants.

Residents in bricks and mortar accommodation were asked, on a five-point scale from very good to very poor, what they thought about a number of aspects of their accommodation including: size of house; design of accommodation; neighbours; location; facilities; and, condition/state of repair. All respondents viewed these issues either positively, with only a small number having more ambivalent views. No one indicated that any aspect of their accommodation was poor or very poor (see Table 6 below).

Table 6: Views on the accommodation

Issue	Very good	Good	Neutral	Poor	Very Poor
Size of house	4	5	1	-	-
Design of house	4	5	1	-	-
Neighbours	2	8	-	-	-
Location	3	5	2	-	-
Facilities	4	6	-	-	-
Condition/state of repair	4	6	-	-	-

All respondents had access to all basic facilities we enquired about, with the exception of one person who did not have a bath (but indicated that they had a shower), and two people who did not have somewhere for children to play. One of these respondents indicated that lack of space for the children was a health and safety concern to them.

In terms of the size of the dwelling; 5 had 2 bedrooms and 5 had 3 bedrooms. With regards to whether or not people thought that their property gave them enough space, only one person said it did not. When asked to elaborate on why they did not have enough space they gave the following response:

“Only got two bedrooms and not big ones at that, and we have 5 children and ourselves. If the children were older and bigger we would really struggle”

This respondent was currently living in private rented accommodation.

In total 6 households in bricks and mortar accommodation still owned trailers. All of these respondents indicated that they had just one trailer. With regards to where these were kept, 4 people reported that keeping them on their driveway. Two people commented that they had to keep them elsewhere:

“Got them in storage on a farm that stores trailers”

“In storage, there’s no room on the drive”

One of these respondents was currently living in private rented accommodation; the other respondent owned their own home.

With regards to whether or not people kept any animals or birds, three people reported that they did. One respondent currently had birds and dogs at their property. Two respondents indicated that they had horses, but these were kept in rented stables elsewhere.

We asked all respondents to comment on any improvements that could be made to their current accommodation. The following responses were given:

“Need new fencing and gates to keep vehicles safe and locked in”

“Nothing, quite happy at present”

“Somewhere for kids to play”

“Would like new fencing as some panels are damaged with the weather and need fixing or replacing”

“Would love a bigger garden and a garden for greenery like we are used to”

One respondent also indicated frustration at living in rented accommodation and highlighted their aspiration for owner occupation:

“Would like to own or buy [a house] instead of giving rent each month, could be paying off a mortgage”

With regards to how long they had live in their current property, half of the people interviewed had been there for less than 12 months; 2 people had been there 1 – 3 years; and, 2 people had been there 3 – 5 years. Only one person had lived in their current property for more than 5 years.

One person living in a private rented house indicated that they had a base somewhere else. When asked to elaborate on where this was and what type of base it was, it was indicated that it was a private site in Birmingham:

“Private site owned by my family. There is always a pitch for me on there whenever I go back”

Generally speaking, when asked how long they were likely to remain in their house the vast majority said they did not know (6 people); two people indicated that they intended to stay indefinitely; one person reported that they would be leaving in less than 6 months; while another respondent indicated they would be there for another 6 – 12 months. When asked their reasons for leaving, the two respondents made the following comments:

“[Need] more space, not very fond of housing so we are going back out in trailer”

“Wasn’t a long term plan, it was just until we decided what we wanted to do”

We also asked them if they would like to stay in the Study Area when they left their current accommodation. One respondent said no, and elaborated with the following comments:

“Trying to find a piece of land among other Travellers, may have more chance of getting a place passed if there’s one already passed”

They indicated that they were currently waiting for a piece of land to buy. The other respondent did not know whether they would want to stay in the Study Area.

No one was currently on the waiting list for a house.

8. Travelling Showpeople

Travelling Showpeople occupy an unusual position in planning terms and a separate planning Circular, detailing the particular planning needs of Travelling Showpeople, has recently been produced; Circular 04/07. As well as detailing the requirements for pitch identification and allocation for Travelling Showpeople, Circular 04/07 also requires that the accommodation needs of Travelling Showpeople are included within GTAAs.

There are currently no yards (unauthorised or unauthorised) in Ribble Valley for Travelling Showpeople. There had been no planning applications for yards for Travelling Showpeople since 2001. There had been no unauthorised development of yards for Travelling Showpeople since 2001.

There was no indication that the number of yards would increase over the next 5 years.

It was indicated that the current development plan does not include a policy towards yards for Travelling Showpeople.

The Study Team were unable to locate any Travelling Showpeople to be involved in the survey within the Ribble Valley Study Area.

The Lancashire Section of the Showmen's Guild also reported that there were no known sites for Travelling Showpeople within the sub-region.¹⁵

¹⁵ The Accommodation Situation of Showmen in the Northwest, The Showmen's Guild, Lancashire Section, April 2007.

9. Housing-related support service and general services - findings

The questionnaire to local authority officers and the Gypsy and Traveller survey also sought to ascertain and collate information in relation to local services and amenities, as well as housing-related support services – many of which come under the umbrella of the Supporting People programme.

9.1 Housing-related support

With regards to the steps taken to provide Gypsies and Travellers with housing advice and assistance, help them access social housing or any housing related support services available, it was indicated by the local authority that there were no specific services for Gypsies and Travellers in the Study Area.

It was also reported that Gypsies and Travellers do not commonly approach the Council about services. Indeed, the surveys with Gypsies and Travellers indicated that people tended to rely on the advice of relatives or friends if they were unsure about where to go for particular services.

9.2 Views from Gypsies and Travellers on housing-related support services

It proved extremely difficult to find a suitable method to gain some idea as to the level of experience/need within the Gypsy and Traveller community for housing-related services. The very concept of an outside agency providing services such as support for settling into new accommodation or childcare was often seen as nonsensical because of the reliance upon strong family networks and the support that the extended family have historically provided within Gypsy and Traveller communities. However, we were keen to attempt to gain some idea about the levels of need for a number of services. We consulted with key stakeholders and reviewed key documents¹⁶ from elsewhere to produce a list of the kind of services to gain views on.

We asked all Gypsy and Traveller respondents to comment on the likelihood of using a number of services on a scale which covered; 'would never use', 'might use', 'would definitely use' and 'don't know' (see Table 7).

¹⁶ See Supporting People Eastern Regional Cross Authority Group - Gypsy and Traveller Conference, 27th April 2005 <http://www.spkweb.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/6DA547AB-FCBB-4B4F-AE12-A5DD282B4C34/7895/FinalReportofGypsyandtravellerWorkshopApril2006.doc> and The Housing Support Needs of Gypsies and Travellers in West Yorkshire, North Yorkshire and York, December 2006, <http://www.calderdale.gov.uk/council/consultations/engage/downloaddoc.jsp?id=941>

Table 7: Likelihood of using housing-related support services

Support need (ranked in order of interest)	Would never use	Might use	Would definitely use	Don't know
Accessing a GP	-	2	8	-
Support on planning	-	4	6	-
Finding accommodation	1	2	5	2
Pregnancy	3	2	5	-
Filling in forms	-	6	4	-
Accessing legal services	-	5	3	2
Harassment	-	5	3	2
Claiming benefits	7	-	2	1
Settling into new accommodation	2	2	1	5
Meeting people	3	1	-	6
Budgeting	3	1	-	6
Finding a job	10	-	-	-
Accessing training (for adults)	10	-	-	-
Parenting	10	-	-	-

As can be seen, a number of respondents were not interested in receiving support with many of the services highlighted above. This may be due to the perception that many of these services are not applicable to Gypsies and Travellers, as a consequence these findings cannot be seen to provide an illustration as to the definitive need for such services from Gypsy and Traveller communities. However, a careful examination of the results does seem to indicate where the current main concerns from respondents are and where the initial focus of services should be. The services for which support would be most welcome, were (in order of preference): accessing a GP; support on planning; finding accommodation; support with pregnancy; assistance filling in forms; accessing legal services; and, support with issues of harassment. Such concerns are broadly in line with the findings from other GTAAAs.

9.3 Access to local services and amenities

In order to gain some idea as to the interaction that Gypsies and Travellers have with various local services, we asked people if they felt that they or their family had sufficient access to certain services and how important these services were to them. For the most part, the services that are most important to people seem to be the ones to which Gypsies and Travellers had access to. The five most important services were: GP/Health centre; local shops; Dentist; A&E; and, maternity care. The least important services

were: youth clubs; services for older people; sports and leisure services; and, social workers.

We asked people whether or not there was anything stopping them from accessing any of the above services. All respondents answered that there was nothing stopping them accessing any services.

In addition, we asked an open question which invited respondents to comment on ways in which these and other services could be improved. All respondents indicated that there were no improvements to make to the services they currently use. One respondent commented:

“The ones I use I find them OK. The people are actually quite friendly and have an open mind, which is quite nice because it’s not what we are used to”

We also directly asked whether people who worked in the local authority, health service, education and other services should be more aware of issues affecting Gypsies and Travellers. Six people said no and three people did not know. Just one respondent said yes and when asked to expand on this they made the following comments:

“To help Travellers with planning and the council to find more stopping places”

Finally, we asked what people’s experiences of Policing were in the Study Area. The majority of people indicated that they had no experience of Policing. One person reported that they were *“quite strict”*.

10. Employment, education and health – findings

This section presents findings relating to Gypsies and Travellers in the three main service areas of employment, education and health.

10.1 Gypsies and Travellers and work, employment and training

For this section the survey started with a general question about the kind of work undertaken by respondents and their families. Four people indicated that they were currently undertaking some form of work, both in and outside the Study Area. Four people indicated that they did not work.

With regards to those who were currently working, all of them were self employed. In line with the findings of other GTAAs, this would indicate that self-employment is a major mode of employment for Gypsies and Travellers. With regards to the specific trades that people were employed in, respondents indicated: “*motors, buy and sell them*”, “*plastic*”, “*plastic, fascia, roofing and guttering*”, and “*roofing*”. It was clear that many of these trades were practical and manual. Nobody indicated that they had any accommodation needs relating to their work.

In terms of training for work, three people indicated that they had undertaken some form of training for work. They all indicated that this had been ‘on the job’ training by family and friends, rather than a formal college course. No one indicated that they wanted to take part in training at some point in the future.

10.2 Gypsies and Travellers and education

A total of 5 households had school age children (between 5yrs and 16yrs). All of these households said their children regularly attend school. We asked these respondents to rate their children’s schools. Two respondents indicated ambivalent feelings; three people did not know. When asked to elaborate on their responses, two people made the following comments:

“Children seem to like it”

“Had a bit of trouble initially getting them into school”

None of the respondents had contact with the Traveller Education Service in the Study Area.

We asked each respondent to comment on the level/standard of education that they themselves had obtained. Six people indicated “*none*”, three people said they could read and write; while one person stated “*primary school education*”.

10.3 Gypsies and Travellers and health

Identifying households where members have particular health needs for special or adapted accommodation is an important component of housing needs surveys. A growing number of studies show that Gypsies and Travellers experience higher levels of health problems than members of the non-travelling population.

We asked whether respondents had members of their households who experienced some specific conditions (mobility problems, visual impairment, hearing impairments, mental health problems, learning disabilities or communication problems) or any other health problem not listed above. From our sample, four households indicated that someone within their household experienced some form of health problem. Three households indicated that there was someone with mobility problems. These households also indicated having someone experiencing another health condition: one a hearing impairment; one a visual impairment; and, one reporting conditions such as arthritis, asthma, diabetes and a bad chest. The fourth household indicated that their daughter had asthma.

11. Accommodation histories, intentions and travelling – findings

This section looks specifically at some of the ways the Gypsies and Travellers we spoke to during the course of the study have lived in the past and how they would like to live in the future.

11.1 Accommodation histories

In order to gain some idea as to the movement between different types of accommodation, this section of the survey looked at a range of different issues including: the sort of accommodation they had immediately prior to their current accommodation; the general location of prior accommodation; reasons for leaving this accommodation; and, the reasons for living in their current accommodation.

With regards to where they had lived prior to their current bricks and mortar accommodation:

- 4 people had been living on council/RSL sites. The locations given were Blackburn, Manchester, Derby and Lancashire;
- 3 people had been renting a pitch on private sites. The locations given were Birmingham and Accrington;
- 1 person indicated that they had previously lived in another house. They had moved from outside the Study Area (Manchester); and,
- One person had been living on farm land, but did not specify where;

We asked people to tell us what precipitated their move from their previous accommodation (respondents could name multiple reasons). The reasons chosen were: eviction; site closure; wanted independence; to travel; and, no particular reason. In terms of 'other' reasons given for leaving accommodation, there were two responses:

“Wanted a change”

“Would like to have said we lived in a house just as a trial, to see how we found it and make plans for the future”

One respondent indicated that they had previously rented the house they were living in but had now bought it.

11.2 Travelling patterns and experiences

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

One of the most important issues to gain some information on was the frequency that households travelled. Six respondents reported that they never travelled. When asked to elaborate on why they did not travel the following responses were given:

“Not got round to it this year, but will be back travelling soon as we are going back out living in a trailer”

“Not travelled recently with renting this house, not as easy to just go away”

“Settled in house and all kids are married now”

Three people indicated that they had sold their trailers:

“Sold trailer when my wife died”

“Sold the trailer when we left the site”

“Sold the trailer, looking into buying a new one”

In terms of the other responses given about the frequency of travelling, one person indicated that they travelled once per year; and, one person said they travelled seasonally, which generally means for short periods during the summer months. In terms of more frequent travelling, two people reported that they travelled every couple of months.

When asked whether or not their current travelling pattern was typical or had changed in recent years, 5 people indicated that it was typical, while 5 said that it had changed. The responses given as to why it had changed included:

“Just moved into a house so it’s not as easy just to go away, trailer is in storage, not just at hand to go away when we feel like it”

“Used to travel a lot for the wife, she used to sell charms through the year, but due to ill health just go once a year for a holiday, don’t work anymore”

For those who did travel, we asked them where they liked to go. This was an open question designed to allow respondents to mention three of the places they visit most frequently. There were diverse replies which included specific towns/cities such as: Wolverhampton and London. There was also reference to more general areas; for example, three people said Wales. Scotland, Yorkshire and Lancashire were also mentioned. One person indicated that they often went to the Isle of Man, while another reported they went to Spain.

With regards to how many caravans/trailers they travelled with, the majority of people indicated that they travelled with just one trailer, travelling with their own household. One respondent, however, reported that they travelled with

around 6+ trailers/caravans, travelling with their own household and extended family (30+ people).

Households indicated that they had travelled for a number of reasons:

- for a holiday;
- to visit relatives;
- for work;
- to attend family events;
- to attend community events

Of these reasons, the most common reason for travelling was for a holiday.

With regard to what type of accommodation people had used while travelling during the last 12 months, it was reported that people had stopped on caravan parks; with family and relatives on private sites; with family and relatives on council sites; and, farmers fields. Interestingly, no one indicated that they had stopped at the roadside (which as a general rule indicates unauthorised encampments) while they had been travelling over the past 12 months.

Out of the people who had travelled in the last 12 month period, one person reported that they had been forced to leave where they were staying as a result of eviction. No further information was provided in this instance.

In order to further understand people's future travelling patterns, we asked everyone how often they thought they might travel over the next 12 month period (summer 2007 – summer 2008). Half of the people interviewed felt that they would travel about the same as they currently travelled. Interestingly, 4 people indicated that they intended to travel more than currently. One person did not know.

We also asked everyone where they might travel over this period. Only one person anticipated travelling around areas local to where they were based now, while 8 people suggested that they would travel to other parts of the UK.

In terms of preference for accommodation when travelling people were asked about the sort of sites/land they would like to use in future. The responses given were: roadside; caravan parks; with family on private sites; farmer's fields. The most common response was caravan parks (7 people); however, three people indicated that they would also stop at the roadside.

Staying on transit sites did not feature in people's list of options. Evidence from fieldwork in other local authority areas indicates that there is a general negative view of transit site provision amongst Gypsies and Travellers. This however, may reflect the perceived current standard, management and availability of such sites, generally seen as quite poor, rather than a comment on the nature of transit accommodation itself.

12. Household formation and accommodation preferences and aspirations

12.1 Household formation

No households from our sample reported concealed households (i.e. that there were separate households currently living with them in need of accommodation). Respondents were also asked whether there were people living with them who were likely to want their own separate accommodation in the next five years (2007-2012). Again, it was indicated that there was no one.

12.2 Accommodation preferences and aspirations

The final section of the survey with Gypsies and Travellers looked at some of the ways in which they would like to see accommodation options change and what some of their preferences were around accommodation.

Long stay residential sites

A total of 3 respondents said that they would like to move to a long-stay residential site, while 3 did not know. Of these three respondents, only one indicated where they would like this site to be and they reported they would like it elsewhere in the UK. The other two respondents were not sure where they would like it to be.

There were mixed views on the preferred size a long-stay residential site should be. The answers ranged from 20 – 45 pitches. Half of the respondents felt that a site containing 30 pitches would be their preference. This is interesting as the findings of a number of other GTAAs indicate a preference for smaller sites. This finding may reflect their previous experience of larger sites or a desire to be around more members of their community. Recent guidance on site design released by the CLG (currently in consultation form) indicates sites should be around 20 pitches.

Transit/short-stay sites

We were also keen to find out whether or not people would be interested in stopping on short stay or transit sites while they were travelling. People were provided with the following options to choose from and also had to indicate how long they would like to use these types of site for:

- Private transit site;
- Council transit site;
- Transit pitch on a residential private site;
- Transit pitch on a residential council site;
- Designated stopping places.

A total of 5 respondents said that they would be interested in using a 'designated stopping place'; however, they could not indicate how long they would want to use it for.

Similar to long-stay residential sites there were mixed views on the preferred size a transit site/stopping place should be. The answers ranged from 5 – 20 pitches. There seemed to be a general consensus, however, that a site containing a maximum of 10 pitches would be their preference.

Incorporated long-stay and short-stay sites

We also asked people what their thoughts were about sites that incorporated both long-stay pitches and short-stay pitches. Most respondents said they did not know; 3 people thought it was a good idea. Comments in favour of such a site included:

"Gives Travellers a lot of options of what they need and want"

"Helps all Travellers settle or not"

Accommodation preferences

We asked all respondents to comment on their preferences for different forms of accommodation:

- A private site owned and lived on by them or their family
- A site owned by another Gypsy or Traveller
- A site owned by the local council
- A family owned house
- A local authority or housing association owned house
- Travelling around and staying on authorised transit sites
- A 'group housing' type site (mixture of transit/residential/chalet/ trailer accommodation)

The answers were ranked on a scale from 1 to 10; 1 being the worst option for them and 10 being the best option. The mean (average) answer for each scenario are presented in preference order in Table ?? below. This shows that by far the most preferred form of accommodation is a private site or a house owned either by themselves or their family. This is followed by a site that incorporates a mixture of residential pitches, with transit/short stay facilities. What is clear from the sample is that being able to own their own site/home is important and respondents have more ambivalent views on rented accommodation.

Table 8: Views on type of accommodation preferred

Type of site	Mean answer
A private site owned by them or their family	10
A family owned house	10
'Group housing' ¹⁷	7
Travelling around on authorised transit sites	6
A site owned by the local council	5
A site owned by another Gypsy or Traveller	5
A local authority or housing association owned house	4
A site owned by a private landlord (not a Gypsy/Traveller)	4

This final section looks at some of the qualitative information we obtained about the kind of places people prefer and aspire to living to. We asked all respondents to talk openly about their views on both the best place they had ever lived and the worst place. In terms of the worst place people lived, we received a variety of responses. Some commented on the harassment they had experienced. It was clear that this harassment had occurred not only when staying on the roadside, but also on sites as well. It had also come from different sources:

“Skipton. The Police would always stop if they saw us working and the locals were ignorant”

“As a child we were stopping on a piece of waste ground in Scotland when we were travelling and I got into trouble with a local group of girls and they beat me up bad, there were four of them and just me”

“It was when we were evicted off the site. It was humiliating and from there we pulled to another site and the people wasn't very friendly or very clean. We didn't stay long”

“We were living on a site in Wales we had been on for years, over time people left and new people pulled on it. Eventually it was full of young big families that were very cheeky and they vandalised it. They made our lives hell with cheek and stone throwing, we eventually left”

“Manchester. The locals throwing stones at us, they were very rude people and it was a run down smelly place”

Two people indicated that their current house was the worst place; however, this was not because of the condition of the house. One respondent, again, made reference to issues of harassment, although this situation appeared to have improved over time, while another felt living in a house did not suit the family:

Would be living in this house, had a lot of trouble with the neighbours being racist when we first moved in. We were getting taunts every day,

¹⁷ On the questionnaire this was phrased as 'A site incorporating long stay/permanent plots/housing with short stay/transit facilities'

but now it's changed. They realised we are not as bad as they had heard travellers were and we are quite good friends"

"To put my family into this house was one of my worst decisions, it doesn't suit us at all"

One person referred to both negative and positive aspects of their experience of living on a family site:

"Living on a site with all my family was good, but it was bad because we were always falling out over the children and stupid things that if you didn't live with them would never be a problem"

In terms of the best places people had lived, respondents were quite specific about particular places;

"It was on my family's site in Birmingham. It's nice to live with them and for us to know we always have a place there when we have had enough of doing our own travelling and of the house"

"The Galway coast. Peaceful place with friendly people, everybody helped each other"

"When we lived in Manchester on my parents site. It was their own land, it was a lovely place with all our own people on it. It was bad when we got evicted off, we lost out home"

"When we lived in Kent, it was a lovely place and a good site"

Some people referred to living in a house as the best place:

"When we first rented this house, we were unsure of living in a house but we grew to like it and started doing jobs to improve it and managed to buy it from the owner. We liked it and made it to our liking"

"Living in a house because we have the best of both worlds, we have a base and still travel, we just don't have the hassle of finding a site to live or a place to pull at the roadside, but still live like Travellers "

A couple of respondents referred to how much better it was when they were younger and travelled around more frequently:

"It was just travelling from place to place, it was lovely, we saw places up and down the country, it was a peaceful way of life, but it's not the same. It's a lot harder now to stay in places, the Police have got a lot stricter"

"As a child I have memories of stopping from place to place, all my brothers and sisters were home and my mother and father were alive, we were happy, it was a happy childhood"

One person felt that the best place for them was yet to come:

“It will be when we get our piece of land, can’t wait, it will be good to live free, own it and do as you please. It will be a dream come true”

13. An assessment of accommodation need

Nationally, there are no signs that the growth in the Gypsy and Traveller population will slow significantly. Indeed, population characteristics emerging from research around Gypsy and Traveller accommodation agree that the formation of new households is inevitable.¹⁸ Although the supply of authorised accommodation has declined since 1994, the size of the population of Gypsies and Travellers does not appear to have been affected to a great extent. Rather, the way in which Gypsies and Travellers live has changed, including an increase in the use of unauthorised sites; innovative house dwelling arrangements (i.e. living in trailers in the grounds of houses); overcrowding on sites; and, overcrowding within accommodation units (trailers, houses, chalets, etc.).

This chapter looks at the potential additional need for residential and transit pitches for Gypsies and Travellers, as well as the plot needs of Travelling Showpeople in the Ribble Valley Study Area.

13.1 Calculating accommodation supply and need

The methods of assessing and calculating the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers are still developing. In 2003 a crude estimation of additional pitch provision was made at a national level based predominantly on information contained within the Caravan Count.¹⁹ The Guidance on Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments also contains an illustration of how need for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation might best be calculated.²⁰ In addition, guidance for Regional Planning Bodies has been produced, which outlines a systematic checklist for helping to ensure that GTAAs are accurate in their estimation of accommodation need based upon a range of factors.²¹ It is from combining these guides that our estimation of supply and need is drawn. In particular, residential accommodation need is considered by carefully exploring the following factors:

Current residential supply

- Socially rented pitches
- Private authorised pitches

Residential need 2007-2012

- Temporary planning permissions, which will end over the assessment period.
- Allowance for family growth over the assessment period.

¹⁸ Niner, P. (2003) Local Authority Gypsy/Traveller Sites in England, London: ODPM.

¹⁹ Niner, P. (2003) Local Authority Gypsy/Traveller Sites in England, London: ODPM.

²⁰ CLG (2007) Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments, Guidance.

²¹ http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/209/PreparingRegionalSpatialStrategyreviewsonGypsiesandTravellersbyregionalplannings_id1508209.pdf

- Need for authorised pitches from families on unauthorised developments.
- Allowance for net movement over the assessment period between sites and housing.
- Allowance for potential closure of existing sites.
- Potential need for residential pitches in the area from families on unauthorised encampments.

Pitch supply 2007-2012

- Vacant pitches over the assessment period.
- Unused pitches, which are to be brought back into use over the assessment period.
- Known planned site developments.

Within the guidance for producing GTAAs there is also the consideration of 'new households likely to arrive from elsewhere'. It remains unclear from the findings if movement between the Study Area and elsewhere will affect the numbers of Gypsies and Travellers requiring residential accommodation across the Study Area. As this accommodation assessment (in line with other accommodation assessments) only included Gypsies and Travellers within the boundaries of the Study Area, it is impossible to present a reliable estimation on the need for accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers currently living elsewhere.

Although it is not possible to provide an evidence-based numerical assessment of need arising from outside the Study Area to be met within, or vice versa, drawing upon the findings of the existing regional and sub-regional GTAAs it is possible to provide some comment upon how this need might be influenced by populations outside the area. None of these reports provided any firm indication that there was a desire for movement from other sub-regions or local authorities to the Ribble Valley Study Area. However, the pattern of existing provision and identified need on areas surrounding the Ribble Valley Study Area highlights that there may be evidence of displaced demand for pitch accommodation within other neighbouring local authorities. Table 9 below highlights the authorities which border the Ribble Valley Study Area, with their current provision and their estimated need for additional residential pitch provision.

Table 9: Residential accommodation need arising from existing district level Gypsy and Traveller populations 2006-2016

Authority	Current authorised provision (pitches)	Total additional residential need 2006–2011 (pitches)	Supply of pitches 2006-2011	Total additional residential need 2011-2016 (pitches)	Estimated supply of pitches 2011-2016	Total additional residential need 2006-2016 (less supply 2006-2016) (pitches)
Blackburn with Darwen	48	53-65	Nil	16 – 18	Nil	69 – 83
Burnley	0	5 – 6	Nil	1	Nil	5 – 7
Hyndburn	104	14 – 17 + 1 pitch for Travelling Showpeople	Nil	16	Nil	30 – 33 + 1 pitch for Travelling Showpeople
Lancaster	142	14 – 15	4	25	Nil	35 – 36
Pendle	0	2	Nil	0	Nil	2
Preston	12	14 – 16	Nil	4 – 5	Nil	18 – 21
South Ribble	0	0	Nil	0	Nil	0
Wyre	0	0 + 3 pitches for Travelling Showpeople	Nil	0	Nil	0 + 3 pitches for Travelling Showpeople

As can be seen the main need is arising in those LAs where existing provision is already made. It is possible that these areas are home to a certain level of displaced demand from households who would rather live within the Ribble Valley Study Area. If this is the case it is possible that the numbers of pitches required in the Ribble Valley Study Area, as outlined below, would increase. Please see the recommendation section which outlines suggestions for ways in which this could be resolved.

The assessment period referred to above relates to the 2007-2012 period with an alternative approach taken to making estimates beyond this point for 2012-2016. As a result of the impact that the creation of more authorised pitches may have on the Gypsy and Traveller community (in terms of households characteristics, travelling patterns, settlement patterns) it is unwise to consider each of the above factors beyond the initial assessment period. Instead we use a simple estimate of family/household growth to illustrate likely natural increase in the Gypsy and Traveller population.

13.2 A cautionary note on local authority pitch allocation

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 138 of the 353 local authorities in England, and only in 71 authorities is there more than one site. Over time, this has inevitably meant that Gypsies and Travellers have generally moved to areas they see as offering the best life chances; for example, an authority which provides a site; an authority which is perceived as having more private authorised sites than others; or, an authority that is attractive in some other way (slower enforcement, transport links, friends and family resident, etc.). Therefore, there is a tendency, when the need for additional accommodation is assessed, for the needs assessment to further compound these inequalities in site provision. For example, authorities which already provide Gypsy and Traveller accommodation (publicly or privately) are assessed as having greater need for additional pitch provision than authorities with little or no pitch provision. This is compounded further the longer-term the assessment is made (i.e. to 2016).

Similar to the principles adopted as part of the wider Lancashire sub-regional GTAA, we have identified Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs on a **'need where it is seen to arise'** basis. However, the results of these apportionments should not necessarily be assumed to imply that those needs should actually be met to the identified degree in these specific localities. This distribution reflects the current **uneven distribution of pitch provision** and the Gypsy and Traveller population across the Lancashire sub-region and the wider North West region.

Decisions about where need should be met should be strategic, taken in partnership with local authorities, sub-regional bodies and the North West Regional Assembly – involving consultation with Gypsies and Travellers and other interested parties – which will take into account wider social and economic planning considerations such as equity, choice and sustainability.

13.3 Additional residential pitch requirements

Table 10 below summarises the model for residential pitch requirements in the Study Area between 2007-2012. Each requirement is expanded upon below.

Table 10: Summary of estimated need for residential pitches in Ribble Valley 2007-2012

Element of supply and need		Pitches
	Current residential supply	
1	Socially rented pitches	0
2	Private authorised pitches	4
3	Total authorised pitches	4
4	Total plots for Travelling Showpeople	0
	Residential pitch need 2007-2012	
5	End of temporary planning permissions	0
6	New household formation	2
7	Unauthorised developments	0
8	Movement between sites and housing	3
9	Closure of sites	0
10	Unauthorised encampments	0
11	Additional residential need	5
	Additional supply 2007-2012	
12	Pitches currently closed but re-entering use	0
13	Pitches with permission but not developed	0
14	New sites planned	0
15	Vacancies on socially rented sites	0
16	Supply 2007-2012	0
17	Requirement for extra pitches	5

Element of supply and need 1 - 17

Row 1: The number of pitches on socially rented sites provided by local authority information – excludes plots for Travelling Showpeople.

Row 2: The number of pitches on private authorised sites provided by local authority information – excludes plots for Travelling Showpeople.

Row 3: Sum of 1 + 2

Row 4: The number of plots for Travelling Showpeople provided by local authority information

Row 5: There are no temporary planning permissions of sites due to end during the assessment period.

Row 6: The number of new pitches required from new household formation from existing households with the Study Area . This requires estimates of:

- a. The number of new households likely to form;
- b. The proportion likely to require a pitch; and,
- c. The proportion likely to remain within the Study Area.

Household formation findings from sites and houses are presented separately. This element includes households who are currently concealed/over-crowded and households expected to require independent accommodation over the next 5 years (i.e. young people who are currently in their mid-late teens).

New households forming on sites

Finding: We were unable to ascertain the level of household formation from the private site; however, it seems sensible to suggest a potential household formation rate to assist in adequately planning for growth.

Assumptions: Based on commonly used assumptions within GTAAs, we propose a 3% per annum household formation rate²². It is assumed that all will require pitch based accommodation and desire to stay in the Study Area.

Calculation: 3% over 5 years (2007-2012) of 4 households = 1 additional household.

New households forming in housing

Finding: The analysis of the survey showed that there were no individuals requiring their own accommodation in the next 5 years from bricks and mortar accommodation.

Assumptions: As above, not allowing for potential household formation will potentially underestimate need. We propose 3% per annum growth rate applies to bricks and mortar accommodation. Based on survey responses, which has indicated a general satisfaction with 'housed' accommodation we assume that only 30% of such households would require pitch accommodation.

Calculation: 3% over 5 years (2007-2012) of assumed 'housed' population minus 70% = 1 additional household.

Total pitch need from household formation on authorised sites and bricks and mortar housing = **2 pitches**

Row 7: Zero - according to our survey there were no unauthorised developments at the time of the assessment.

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

²² Household growth rates of 2% and 3% a year were suggested as appropriate in Niner, P. (2003) *Local Authority Gypsy/Traveller Sites in England*, London: ODPM. In the Republic of Ireland a report noted that the 4% family growth rate assumed by the Task Force on the Travelling Community had proved very accurate between 1997 and 2004 (*Review of the Operation of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998*. Report by the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee to the Minister for Housing and Urban Renewal, 2004).

Sites to housing finding: It is assumed that there is no desire from the private site to move to bricks and mortar accommodation.

Housing to sites finding: 20% of families/households in bricks and mortar accommodation expressed an interest in a site place in the Study Area

Assumptions:

- 20% of families equates to two households involved in the survey
- 20% is probably quite high when compared to findings from other GTAAs
- The Study Team was unable to consult with all 'housed' Gypsies and Travellers
- Assume from what seems likely that 15% of 'known' housed population would move to a site if pitches were created

Calculation: 15% of known bricks and mortar population = 3 families/households

The net movement from housing to sites and sites to housing is **3 families** requiring site based accommodation over the assessment period.

Row 9: Zero – there are no plans to close existing sites which the Study Team are aware of.

Row 10: Zero – there is no evidence of need for residential pitches from households on unauthorised encampments within the Study Area.

Row 11: Sum of elements 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

Row 12: Zero – there are no pitches which are currently closed due to enter re-use.

Row 13: Zero – there are no pitches for which planning permissions have been granted but which are not yet developed

Row 14: Zero – there are no plans reported to develop new socially rented sites.

Row 15: Zero – there are no socially rented sites in the Study Area

Row 16: Sum of elements 12, 13, 14 and 15

Row 17: Row 11 minus Row 16 = total residential pitches required for the Study Area.

Permanent residential accommodation need over the next period 2012-2016

The current shortage of sites and pitches for Gypsies and Travellers means that it is difficult to predict trends in living arrangements once GTAA's across the country have been implemented in the form of nationally increased site/pitch provision. There is no means of knowing how Gypsies and Travellers will decide to live in the next decade. There may be an increase in smaller households, moves into bricks and mortar housing may be more common or household formation may happen at a later age. However, in order to take a strategic view, it is important to be able to plan for the longer-term. Therefore, in order to balance the complexity of issues with a need to plan for the longer term we have used an assumed rate of household growth of 3% a year compound as applied to the projected number of pitches which should be available by 2012. This figure is also quoted in the recent CLG report.²³ All households on sites are assumed to require pitches. It is assumed there will be no unauthorised developments over the next period and that any households on unauthorised encampments will not require permanent residential accommodation in the Study Area.

The total requirement for the Study Area over the period **2012 - 2016** is approximately an additional **1 residential pitch**.

Total additional residential pitch need 2007 - 2016 = 6 pitches

13.4 An assessment of need for transit pitches

Although nomadism and travelling is currently restricted to a certain extent, 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. Currently 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, as well as difficulties in accessing education and health services.

National policy is clear that there should be provision in order for Gypsies and Travellers who chose to travel to do so without resorting to stopping illegally or inappropriately. During the course of this assessment we have found evidence of sporadic encampments in the Study Area.

During the course of this assessment we have found some evidence as to the need for authorities to make provision for Gypsies and Travellers in transit.

²³http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/209/PreparingRegionalSpatialStrategyreviewsonGypsiesandTravellersbyregionalplannings_id1508209.pdf

This is shown by the records of the local authority which show, historically, sporadic small encampments within the Study Area.

Although the Caravan Count shows low numbers of caravans, the local authority indicated that there were at least 2 separate unauthorised encampments during 2006. The size of these encampments equated to 3 caravans (a total of 6 caravans). It seems reasonable to suggest, based on this information, that the authority makes short-stay accommodation provision for around 6 caravans over one calendar year.

Total additional need for transit pitches = provision for 6 caravans

What has emerged from various GTAAs is that travelling is a complex phenomenon. In order to assist Gypsies and Travellers in maintaining their cultural practices, the development of short stay transit provision needs to accommodate the diversity of travelling. It is important to note that the provision of an inappropriate form of transit accommodation may fail to reduce the number of unauthorised encampments.

Because of this complexity, coupled with the lack of data from unauthorised encamped households, it is suggested that until there is a greater understanding as to how travelling affects Ribble Valley Borough Council and the broader Lancashire sub-region, transit/short stay accommodation needs are provided by 'soft' options (i.e. designated stopping places), rather than 'hard' provision which would entail purpose built transit pitches. Such 'soft' options would regularise unauthorised encampments, improve the options and well-being for such households and reduce potential enforcement costs. This will need to remain under review, in partnership with neighbouring Lancashire authorities, and the extent of transit/short-stay provision may need to be increased over time.

13.5 Travelling Showpeople accommodation need

There was no need identified for Travelling Showpeople within the Study Area.

It should be noted that this identification of Travelling Showpeople pitch need is, similar to the identification of pitch need for other Gypsy and Traveller groups, based on a 'need where it is seen to arise' approach. Therefore, this need is based on where people live at the moment. From our consultation with members of the Showmen's Guild, and from the information on accommodation need produced by the Guild,²⁴ it would appear that a significant number of households work in the various sub-regions (particularly parts of Cheshire and Lancashire) but currently live in other sub-regions in the North West (particularly Greater Manchester – many of whose sites suffer

²⁴ The Accommodation Situation of Showmen in the Northwest, The Showmen's Guild, Lancashire Section, April 2007

from overcrowding problems) due to a reported lack of appropriate accommodation options in other areas.

Consultations with Travelling Showpeople indicate a strong desire for some households to live in and around the areas which offer them the greatest opportunities to work.²⁵ As a result there is a need to address the needs of Travelling Showpeople in each sub-region by an informed understanding of the circuit of Fairs and working patterns.²⁶

In light of this, although there has been no need for accommodation identified this should be monitored as in meeting the needs of Travelling Showpeople, just as with other Gypsy and Traveller groups, sub-regions and local authority areas can not be viewed in isolation from one another.

²⁵ Such areas will be heavily influenced by the location of Fairs in and around the Study Area.

²⁶ The Showmen's Guild will provide effective partners in order to assist the Regional Assembly and local authorities with this.

14. Recommendations

This final chapter provides some recommendations, based on the findings of the study, for how Ribble Valley Borough Council might progress towards meeting the needs identified as part of the assessment.

Although this study has been confined to one local authority area, it will be important for Ribble Valley Borough Council to work in a pro-active fashion, along with neighbouring authorities and partners, to meet the accommodation needs which have been identified as a result of this assessment.

There is a significant amount of work to do in order to create greater synergy between the current situation of the Gypsy and Traveller population and situation enjoyed by the vast majority of the non-Traveller communities. The following aims to conclusions and recommendations, emerging during the course of this assessment, as to how the need identified can be best met. There are six broad headings: overall strategy, systems and policy framework; accommodating transient Gypsies and Travellers; communication and engagement; developing accommodation; Travelling Showpeople accommodation; and, health and housing-related support issues.

A number of the recommendations, and variations thereof, have been made within other GTAAs that the authors have been involved in within the North West region. We have brought our experience of practice (both good and bad) to this assessment in order to make these recommendations. We believe it is important that all local authorities begin to take a common approach to embedding Gypsy and Traveller issues into their plans and good practice sharing.

14.1 Strategy, systems and policy framework

Ribble Valley Borough Council is part of a wide sub-regional area and, as such, has important, strategic and facilitating roles to play in order to support the development of pitch provision for Gypsies and Travellers. It is important that partnerships between the authorities in Lancashire are established.

Recommendation 1: Ribble Valley Borough Council should ensure they are part of any broader sub-regional body which is established in order to help facilitate cross-authority strategies and accommodation allocation across the sub-region.

Recommendation 2: The local authority should ensure an internal working group exists, which cuts across service areas, in order to better co-ordinate the response and approach on Gypsy and Traveller issues (i.e. management of unauthorised encampments, increase in provision, development of services etc.).

There is a need to improve information collection.

Recommendation 3: There is a need to ensure that there is a standardised and centralised method of recording occurrences of unauthorised encampments and the needs of households on these encampments. Steps should be taken to link in with other local authorities (Lancashire-wide) in the collection of information in order to take a much more strategic and accurate view of accommodation need, travelling patterns and trends. Ribble Valley Borough Council should be party to any joint protocols in Lancashire in order to respond effectively and fairly towards unauthorised encampments.

Recommendation 4: In order to adhere to the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, and to ensure the high quality of on-going monitoring, the local authority should ensure that Gypsies and Travellers are recognised as separate categories (i.e. Romany Gypsy and Irish Traveller) in all their ethnic monitoring forms, most urgently in relation to housing and planning applications.

There is a need for the local authority to ensure equality of treatment of Gypsies and Travellers across service areas.

Recommendation 5: The local authority should ensure that principles of equality, in relation to Gypsies and Travellers, are embedded in the wide range of services provided. In particular this includes:

- Housing policies
- Homeless policies
- Harassment
- Communication and engagement
- Statement of Community Involvement
- Housing-related support
- Choice-Based Lettings
- Allocation policies
- Planning policies
- Absence policies
- Equality Impact Assessments

Recommendation 6: The authority should be sensitive to the different cultural and support needs of Gypsies and Travellers who may present as homeless and those who may require local authority accommodation.

14.2 Accommodating transient Gypsies and Travellers

It is clear that travelling and any resulting unauthorised encampment are complex phenomena. In order to assist Gypsies and Travellers in maintaining their cultural practices, the development of sites need to accommodate the diversity of travelling.

Although calculations have been produced, such travelling is difficult to quantify as need in terms of pitch provision, so the local authority will need to develop a range of appropriate strategies to meet this often unpredictable need.

Recommendation 7: The local authority needs to be flexible when considering the provision of transit accommodation. Options to consider include: formal transit pitches, through to less-equipped stopping places used on a regular basis to temporary sites with temporary facilities available during an event or for part of the year;

Recommendation 8: The level of accommodation provision across Ribble Valley should remain under constant review.

It was clear there was a lack of formalisation around the management of unauthorised encampments, in particular with regards to the assessment of households on encampments and the contact made by the authority with such households. In order to be fair and build good relationships with the Gypsy and Traveller communities, Bailiffs should not be the first point of contact.

Recommendation 9: The local authority should ensure they take a common approach, in line with other local authorities, to the Welfare Needs Assessment for any unauthorised encampments. This should be grounded in good practice and be pro-active in meeting the needs of Gypsies and Travellers.

Recommendation 10: The local authority should develop a policy grounded in good practice to dealing with unauthorised encampments. Ideally this policy should be a joint protocol with other agencies.

A major source of recurring tension within the non-Traveller community is around the abandonment of household and occupational waste on areas which have been encamped upon. Gypsies and Travellers however often only have vans and light haulage vehicles as their means of transport. Such transport often prohibits the use of local recycling centres without a charge being paid. Although some Gypsies and Travellers do discard such waste on land which they have used/encamped upon it has also been known for non Gypsies and Travellers to use such sites as fly-tipping areas in order to deflect blame from themselves to transient Gypsies and Travellers.

Recommendation 11: Options should be devised for Gypsies and Travellers on unauthorised sites who have no means to dispose of their household waste to do so.

Recommendation 12: There is a need to develop ways in which to deal with any households who leave occupational/trade waste in areas where encampments have happened rather than discard this at the appropriate recycling centre.

14.3 Communication and engagement

Communication with local Gypsy and Traveller households will be imperative during the coming years of change and upheaval caused by an increase in accommodation provision (both locally and nationally). There seems to be little awareness by the local authority of the families living in the Ribble Valley Study Area, but also, at the same time, little engagement from Gypsies and Travellers in the area.

Recommendation 13: The local authority should engage in efforts to raise cultural awareness issues and dispel some of the persistent myths around Gypsies and Travellers.

Recommendation 14: Authorities should develop their communication and engagement strategies already in place for consultation with non-Travelling communities and tailor these, in an appropriate manner, to Gypsy and Traveller community members.

What is clear from our sample is that there is an overwhelming aspiration of owner-occupation, which follows findings from other GTAAs. There is therefore a potential need to develop a constructive dialogue between Gypsies and Travellers seeking to develop private sites and planning authorities. Initial and appropriate discussions with the planning authority could avoid the economic fallout which occurs when land is developed and planning permission is later refused.

Recommendation 15: The Planning department should offer appropriate advice and support to Gypsies and Travellers on the workings of the planning system and the criteria to be considered in applications.

Our experience of collecting data about the Gypsy and Traveller community in a number of GTAAs has highlighted that certain sections of some local authorities are more involved in Gypsy and Traveller issues than others and have a clear lead on these issues. Other authorities adopted a more ad hoc approach and the responsibility of Gypsy and Traveller issues occasionally went to an officer who had shown an interest.

Recommendation 16: The local authority should identify a clear lead officer (preferably a corporate officer) who manages the response to Gypsies and Traveller issues.

14.4 Developing accommodation

If the authority chooses to develop socially rented accommodation, the cost incurred in the development of such sites is likely to be directed at the Gypsy and Traveller Site Grant held by Communities and Local Government. Where this is the case, consideration should be given to the appropriate design of this accommodation.

Recommendation 17: Those officers and agencies leading the planning, design and development of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation should involve the target Gypsy and Traveller population in all stages. In turn site (both residential and transit) and design should be approached in a creative and innovative manner. Preferences and aspirations of Gypsies and Travellers should be taken into consideration. Important things to consider include:

- Location to local services and transport networks
- Pitch size
- Amenities
- Sheds
- Management
- Mixture of accommodation (chalet, trailer, etc.)
- Utility of outside space (driveways, gardens, etc.)
- Homes for life principles
- Health and related support issues
- Tenure Mix
- Space for short-term visitors

Recommendation 18: The authority should ensure that existing statutory guidelines and emerging good practice are used in relation to residential and transit site design, management and health and safety issues.

Recommendation 19: The principles and methods used by authorities and RSLs of promoting affordable accommodation to members of the non-Traveller communities should be adapted to the accommodation used by members of Gypsy and Traveller communities.

14.5 Health and housing-related support Issues

There were a number of issues which emerged during the assessment that would improve the life of a number of Gypsies and Travellers and provide different sections of the communities with independence.

Recommendation 20: It will be an important component, in order to produce sustainable solutions for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation provision, for all relevant statutory departments to engage with Gypsy and Traveller needs. Supporting People should be embedded in the strategic planning and delivery of services. Any specific training needs should be met where needed.

Recommendation 21: The authority may look to working with Supporting People to create floating Gypsy and Traveller housing support workers. Such officers could offer support and assistance to enable those people wishing to remain in bricks and mortar accommodation or live on sites, to do so.

Recommendation 22: Supporting People teams should network with Supporting People teams locally, regionally and nationally in order to share and disseminate good practice on meeting the housing-related support needs of Gypsy and Traveller community members.

Recommendation 23: The profile of Home Improvement Agencies (HIAs) should be raised in relation to Gypsies and Travellers who wish to remain in their own homes. It is important that such agencies are able to engage with people living on private sites as well as those living in bricks and mortar accommodation.

Recommendation 24: Housing-related support should be flexible in order to offer support when it is needed (i.e. settlement on a site/in a house), with scope to withdraw it on a phased basis or continue as required.

Recommendation 25: Housing-related support should develop appropriate strategies to respond to the key areas of support required, identified in this study.

14.6 Travelling Showpeople accommodation

Ribble Valley Borough Council should consider the above recommendations as applying to all Gypsy and Traveller groups, inclusive of Travelling Showpeople. However, because of the unique position afforded to Travelling Showpeople in the planning guidance, coupled with a changing labour market and living arrangements for Travelling Showpeople households, accommodating Travelling Showpeople poses particular challenges. However, there were no accommodation needs identified for Travelling Showpeople as a result of this study. Irrespective of this in order to plan for the future and a changing demographic of the Gypsy/Traveller population it is important that the local authority is prepared and can support neighbouring authorities.

Recommendation 26: The local authority should consult with the local branch of the Showmen's Guild to discuss plans to increase and develop the accommodation provision for Travelling Showpeople.

Recommendation 27: The local authority should be aware of and implement the guidance issued by the CLG around planning and Travelling Showpeople sites.

Recommendation 28: The local authority is encouraged to identify specific pieces of land that could be used by Travelling Showpeople in the future.

Appendix 1



GYPSY AND TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT IN RIBBLE VALLEY

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES

This questionnaire survey is part of the assessment of accommodation and other support needs of Gypsies and Travellers, commissioned by Ribble Valley. It is designed to provide consistent and structured information on current accommodation and relevant policies. More details are given about the questionnaire and how to complete it on the next page.

Please complete the questionnaire and return it by **14th November 2007**. Please return it by e-mail to v.jolly@salford.ac.uk or in hard copy by post to:

Victoria Jolly Salford Housing & Urban Studies Unit Business House The University of Salford University Road Salford M5 4WT Tel: 0161 2952140
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If you have any queries about completing the questionnaire, please contact Victoria Jolly at University of Salford either by phone (0161 295 2140) or e-mail (v.jolly@salford.ac.uk)

Local authority	
Contact name	

Telephone number	
E-mail address	

GYPHY AND TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT IN RIBBLE VALLEY

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES

INTRODUCTION

This questionnaire survey is part of an assessment of accommodation and other support needs of Gypsies and Travellers, commissioned by the two local authorities in the Study Area. The assessment will inform planning, housing and other policies in the sub-region and individual authorities.

The questionnaire is being sent to the two authorities in order to collect as much basic information as possible about current accommodation provision and local policies towards Gypsies and Travellers. Answers will be confidential to the research team and nothing will be published which can be related to individual authorities or sites.

The questionnaire is long, but some of the questions may not apply to your authority. Because the survey deals with a range of topics, it is likely that inputs will be needed from several people.

The questionnaire has been divided into sections to help you decide who might most appropriately provide the information. The sections are :

- A : Local authority sites and their management
- B : Planning and private site provision (authorised and unauthorised)
- C : Unauthorised camping by Gypsies and Travellers
- D : Gypsies and Travellers and social housing
- E : Other accommodation
- F : Travelling Showmen

Instructions about how to complete the questionnaire are normally in ***bold and italics***. There may be questions where the options given for answers do not adequately express your views – in such cases please write in to provide a more appropriate answer or to explain the answer you have given. We always prefer some answer to none! Most of the questions ask for a box to be ticked – if completing this electronically please use an X in the box if that is easier.

A : LOCAL AUTHORITY GYPSY AND TRAVELLER SITES

'Local authority Gypsy and Traveller sites' are those operated by local authorities. This includes sites owned and managed by local authorities, and local authority owned sites managed by a non-local authority body or individual so long as the authority retains control of site management (critically of rent setting and lettings).

A 'transit/emergency' site or pitch is one provided for temporary stays, where the normal length of stay is limited by the terms of the licence. A 'residential' site or pitch is one without such limitation, designed for permanent occupation.

A1. The July 2006 Listing of Gypsy Sites provided by local authorities shows that there is no local authority Gypsy site in your area. Is this correct?

There is no site Go to A3

There is a site Answer A2

A2. Please provide basic information about the site in the grid below. You may be asked for further information about the site at a later stage.

Site name	
Full address (inc. post code)	
Number of residential pitches	
Number of transit pitches	
Who owns the site?	
Who manages the site?	
Who should be contacted to provide further details about the site?	

A3. Have any local authority sites closed or been sold in your area since 1994? If so, how many pitches have been lost/affected? Were they residential or transit pitches?

	Number of pitches affected	
	Residential	Transit
No sites closed or sold		
Site(s) closed		
Site(s) sold		

A4. Are there any current plans to provide local authority Gypsy and Traveller sites in your area over the next 5 years?

Yes

No

IF YES

Please give details in the box below.

Location	Number of pitches proposed	
	Residential	Transit

B : PLANNING AND PRIVATE GYPSY AND TRAVELLER SITES

This section covers private Gypsy and Traveller caravan sites. 'Sites' include single-family as well as multi-occupancy developments. The section covers sites which are owner-occupied and those where pitches are rented or occupied by wider family members.

B1. What is the current development plan covering your local authority area against which an application for a Gypsy and Traveller site would be assessed? **Write in**

B2. Does this plan include a policy towards Gypsy and Traveller sites?

Yes includes policy

No policy

IF YES : PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY OR GIVE ELECTRONIC ADDRESS FOR ACCESS TO THE POLICY

B3. Are there any relevant policies for Gypsy and Traveller sites in current or emerging Development Plan Documents under the new planning system?

Yes

No

IF YES : PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY OR GIVE ELECTRONIC ADDRESS FOR ACCESS TO THE POLICY

B4. Are any sites/locations being considered as suitable for Gypsy and Traveller site development?

Yes **Answer B5**

No **Go to B6**

B5. Where are these sites/locations?

ALL

B6. Generally, what sorts of area would be deemed suitable for Gypsy and Traveller site provision?

B7. What criteria would sites need to satisfy to encourage a successful application?

No

IF YES

How many? **Write in**

B13. Has your authority taken any planning enforcement action in relation to the unauthorised development of Gypsy and Traveller sites since 2001?

Yes

No

IF YES

On how many occasions? How many families are/were affected? Please provide details.
Write in

ALL

B14. Do you expect the number of unauthorised private Gypsy and Traveller sites developed without planning consent in your area to increase over the next 5 years?

Yes

No

B15. We are keen to identify good practice in all aspects of local engagement with Gypsies and Travellers. Please give details below of any aspects of your planning approach which you think works well and is worth sharing with others.

The following sub-section relates to existing AUTHORISED PRIVATE SITES

Authorised private Gypsy and Traveller sites include all sites, with planning consent, catering specifically for Gypsies and Travellers. This includes sites provided by Gypsies and Travellers for their own occupation, sites provided by Registered Social Landlords or other individuals or organisations, and sites owned by the local authority but leased to a non-local authority organisation or individual where the authority does not control site management.

B16. Are there any authorised private Gypsy and Traveller sites in your area?

Yes **Answer B17**

No **Go to B18**

IF YES

In the course of the research we will need to map private sites and may wish to interview Gypsy and Traveller residents. We therefore need basic background information on each relevant site. Please provide as much detail as possible in B17. Copy sheets if there are more than 7 sites in your area.

B17. For **each** authorised private Gypsy and Traveller site in your area please provide details of site name, address and total number of pitches. Please give contact details, where known for the site owner/manager. If known, please indicate whether the site is 'owner-occupied' (that is family owned and occupied only by family members) or has pitches available to non-family members on a rental or licence basis. In the final space, please record the nature of the planning permission to allow us to identify any sites which have a temporary or personal permission.

Private site 1

Site name	
Full address (inc. post code or OS grid reference)	
Total number of pitches	
Contact details for site owner/manager	
'Owner-occupied' or with rented pitches	
Nature of planning consent	

Private site 2

Site name	
Full address (inc. post code or OS grid reference)	
Total number of pitches	
Contact details for site owner/manager	
'Owner-occupied' or with rented pitches	
Nature of planning consent	

Private site 3

Site name	
Full address (inc. post code or OS grid reference)	
Total number of pitches	
Contact details for site owner/manager	
'Owner-occupied' or with rented pitches	
Nature of planning consent	

Private site 4

Site name	
Full address (inc. post code or OS grid reference)	
Total number of pitches	
Contact details for site owner/manager	
'Owner-occupied' or with rented pitches	
Nature of planning consent	

Private site 5

Site name	
Full address (inc. post code or OS grid reference)	
Total number of pitches	
Contact details for site owner/manager	
'Owner-occupied' or with rented pitches	
Nature of planning consent	

Private site 6

Site name	
Full address (inc. post code or OS grid reference)	
Total number of pitches	
Contact details for site owner/manager	
'Owner-occupied' or with rented pitches	
Nature of planning consent	

Private site 7

Site name	
Full address (inc. post code or OS grid reference)	
Total number of pitches	
Contact details for site owner/manager	
'Owner-occupied' or with rented pitches	
Nature of planning consent	

The following sub-section relates to UNAUTHORISED SITES DEVELOPED WITHOUT PLANNING PERMISSION

Questions relate to sites owned by Gypsies and Travellers who have bought and developed land without planning consent. Please do not include unauthorised encampments on land not owned by Gypsies and Travellers.

B18. Are there currently any unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller sites in your area?

Yes **Answer B19**

No **Go to C1**

IF YES

In the course of the research we will need to map unauthorised sites and may wish to interview Gypsy and Traveller residents. We therefore need basic background information on each relevant site. Please provide as much detail as possible in B19. Copy sheets if there are more than 2 unauthorised developments in your area.

B19. For **each** unauthorised development of a Gypsy and Traveller site in your area please provide details of site name, address and total number of pitches. Please give contact details, where known for the site owner/manager. In the final space note any enforcement action being taken.

Unauthorised site development 1

Site name	
Full address (Postcode or OS grid reference)	
Total number of pitches	
Contact details for site owner	
What enforcement action, if any, is being taken? Write in	

Unauthorised site development 2

Site name	
Full address (Postcode or OS grid reference)	
Total number of pitches	
Contact details for site owner	
What enforcement action, if any, is being taken? Write in	

C : UNAUTHORISED CAMPING BY GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS

Unauthorised camping involves Gypsies and Travellers residing in caravans or other vehicles on land which they do not own. They will normally be there as trespassers.

C1. Does your authority have a written policy for managing unauthorised camping by Gypsies and Travellers?

Yes

No

IF YES, PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY

C2. Is your authority party to any joint agreements or protocols with other agencies for managing unauthorised encampments? **Tick all that apply**

No

Yes with Police

Yes with other local authorities

Yes, with other agencies

C3. Who normally makes the first contact with Gypsies and Travellers on unauthorised encampments? **Tick all that apply**

No-one

An officer of your Council

Police

Traveller Education

Bailiff

Other – please specify

C4. We are keen to identify good practice in all aspects of local engagement with Gypsies and Travellers. Please give details below of any aspects of your approach to managing unauthorised encampments which you think works well and is worth sharing with others.

We will need to consider evidence of need from unauthorised camping in the research. We have information from the published Gypsy Caravan Counts, but these are snapshots only. It would be very helpful if you could provide as fully as possible the information requested in questions C5 to C14 below; this will give us a more complete picture of the pattern of unauthorised encampment across the sub-region. Where questions refer to 'encampments', please count separately any encampments caused by the same family/group at different locations and/or any encampments at the same location by different families/groups (or by the same family/group but with a time gap between camps).

C5. Do you keep records of known unauthorised encampments which would include dates and number of caravans?

Yes – all known encampments

Yes – some encampments

No

C6. How many separate encampments were there in your authority area during the year 2006?

Number of encampments	
-----------------------	--

IF YOU CANNOT GIVE THE EXACT FIGURE, PLEASE INDICATE THE RANGE BELOW

None	
1 to 5 encampments	
6 to 10 encampments	
11 to 15 encampments	
16 to 20 encampments	
21 to 30 encampments	
31 to 40 encampments	
41 to 50 encampments	
Over 50 encampments	
No information	

C7. Please complete the grid below (and continued overleaf) as fully as possible to show the number, location, size and approximate duration of unauthorised encampments in your area during 2006. In the final column please indicate what action was taken, for example: none; negotiated departure date; court action (powers used); s61. Please write 'nil' if there were no encampments in the year. **(If the same information exists in a spreadsheet or other format which you could provide to us, there is no need to transfer information)**

Camp	Location (as precisely as possible including Postcode or OS grid reference)	Number of caravans involved	Duration of encampment (weeks)	Indication of action taken
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				

C7. Grid continued

Camp	Location (as precisely as possible including Postcode or OS grid reference)	Number of caravans involved	Duration of encampment (weeks)	Indication of action taken
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				

C8. How many unauthorised encampments are there, on average, in your area at any point in time?

	<i>Please tick</i>
None	
1	
2	
More than 2 (please write in number)	

C9. Are there usually more unauthorised encampments in your area in winter or in summer, or is there no clear seasonal variation?

	<i>Please tick</i>
More in winter	
More in summer	
No clear variation	
Very few/no encampments	

C10. In your experience, are most Gypsies and Travellers on unauthorised encampments 'in transit' passing through or are they 'local' to the area or sub-region?

	<i>Please tick</i>
Most are 'in transit'	
Most are 'local'	
Both equally common	
Very few/no encampments	

C11. How has the number of unauthorised encampments changed over the past 5 years?

	<i>Please tick</i>
Remained broadly the same	
Increased	
Decreased	

C12. How has the size of unauthorised encampments changed over the past 5 years?

	<i>Please tick</i>
Remained broadly the same	
Increased	
Decreased	

C13. Have there been any other observable changes in the pattern of unauthorised camping in your area over the last 5 years? *Please write in*

The groups/families involved

The type and/or location of sites encamped

Other changes

C14. Do you expect the number of caravans on unauthorised encampments to remain broadly the same, or to increase or decrease over the next 5 years?

Remain broadly the same

Increase

Decrease

Don't know

D : GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS AND SOCIAL HOUSING

D1. Are Gypsies and Travellers specifically referred to in your authority's current housing strategy?

Yes

No

D2. Are Gypsies and Travellers specifically referred to in your authority's current homelessness strategy?

Yes

No

D3. Are Gypsies and Travellers specifically referred to in your authority's current BME housing strategy?

Yes

No

Not applicable (no BME strategy)

D4. Do you identify Gypsies and Travellers in ethnic records and monitoring of social housing applications and/or allocations?

Yes

No

D5. Please provide as much information as possible (accurate or estimates) in the table below.

Number of Gypsies and Travellers currently registered for social housing	
Number of Gypsies and Travellers housed in 2006 (or 2005/6 if more convenient)	

D6. Over the last 12 months, how many homeless presentations have been made by Gypsies and Travellers?

Insert number	
---------------	--

D7. From these homeless presentations what are the main reasons for presenting as homeless?

1.

2.

3.

D8. How has the number of Gypsies and Travellers moving into social rented housing changed over the past 5 years?

- Remained broadly the same
- Increased
- Decreased
- Not known

D9. How do you expect the number of Gypsies and Travellers moving into social rented housing to change over the next 5 years?

- Remain broadly the same
- Increase
- Decrease
- Not known

D10. In your experience, what are the three or four most important reasons why Gypsy-Travellers move into housing? *Please tick up to 4 answers*

Health reasons	<input type="checkbox"/>	For children's schooling	<input type="checkbox"/>
Want to 'settle'	<input type="checkbox"/>	Want to move nearer to family/friends	<input type="checkbox"/>
Want a permanent house or flat	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unable to get a place on a site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to find stopping places when travelling	<input type="checkbox"/>	Harassment or other problems on a site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other <i>(please specify)</i>			

D11. How many Gypsies and Travellers do you estimate live in social rented housing in your area?

Over 500 families	<input type="checkbox"/>
250 – 500 families	<input type="checkbox"/>
100 – 250 families	<input type="checkbox"/>
50 – 100 families	<input type="checkbox"/>
10 – 50 families	<input type="checkbox"/>
Less than 10 families	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not known	<input type="checkbox"/>

D12. Are there particular estates or areas where Gypsies and Travellers tend to live, or is their distribution fairly even?

Concentrations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fairly even	<input type="checkbox"/>
No information	<input type="checkbox"/>

IF THERE ARE CONCENTRATIONS

Where are the main concentrations?

We are keen to find out about how your homelessness, housing and housing-related support policies and practices impact on Gypsies and Travellers. Please describe initiatives and good practice in answer to questions D13 to D15 below. These issues will be explored further in interviews and focus groups later in the research.

D13. Please provide details of how Gypsies and Travellers who are homeless are supported through the homelessness process (for example, applications and interviews, temporary accommodation, defining 'suitable' accommodation etc).

D14. Please provide details of any steps taken to provide Gypsies and Travellers with housing advice and assistance or to help them access social housing (for example, sensitive lettings).

D15. Please provide details of any housing-related support services for Gypsies and Travellers (for example under Supporting People initiatives). What services are provided? Which agency provides the service? Has this worked well?

D17. Which services do Gypsies and Travellers most frequently approach the Council about?
Tick all that apply

Not known	
None – do not commonly approach the Council	
Planning applications and site development	
Housing advice	
Applying for social housing	
Housing tenancy problems	
Housing Benefit	
Other benefits advice	
Discrimination or harassment	
Other (<i>specify</i>)	
Other (<i>specify</i>)	
Other (<i>specify</i>)	

E : OTHER GYPSY AND TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION, ISSUES AND GOOD PRACTICE

This section aims to collect information about accommodation options for Gypsies and Travellers other than Gypsy and Traveller caravan sites and social housing, and good practice examples other than those specifically requested in other sections of the questionnaire.

E1. Are there significant numbers of Gypsies and Travellers living in private housing in your area? *Tick all that apply*

Yes, in owner-occupied housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Answer E2
Yes, in privately rented housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Answer E2
No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Go to E4
No information	<input type="checkbox"/>	Go to E4

IF YES

E2. Are there particular areas where Gypsies and Travellers tend to live, or is their distribution fairly even?

Concentrations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fairly even	<input type="checkbox"/>
No information	<input type="checkbox"/>

IF THERE ARE CONCENTRATIONS

Where are the main concentrations?

E3. Are you aware of any issues arising in relation to Gypsies and Travellers living in private housing?

Yes

No

IF YES

Please describe the issues.

E4. Do Gypsies and Travellers live on caravan or mobile home parks in your area which are not specifically designed for them?

Yes

No

No information

E5. Please describe any examples of local good practice in engagement with Gypsies and Travellers over accommodation or support not already noted.

F : TRAVELLING SHOWPEOPLE AND CIRCUS FAMILIES

The research includes the needs of Travelling Showpeople and Circus Families for accommodation for winter quarters, or where some family members may live throughout the year. It does not include issues which may arise while they are travelling to provide fairs or circuses.

F1. Does your current development plan include a policy towards sites for Travelling Showpeople?

Yes includes policy

No policy

IF YES : PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY OR GIVE ELECTRONIC ADDRESS FOR ACCESS TO THE POLICY

F2. Are there any authorised sites for Travelling Showpeople in your area?

Yes

No

F3. Has the number of authorised sites and/or pitches for Travelling Showpeople changed since 2001?

	Sites	Pitches
Increased since 2001		
Remained static		
Decreased since 2001		

F4. Do you expect the number of authorised sites for Travelling Showpeople in your area to increase over the next 5 years?

Yes

No

F5. How many planning applications for the development of sites for Travelling Showpeople have been received since 2001? Please complete the grid below to give numbers and show outcomes – enter 0 if zero!

Year	Number of applications/decisions			
	Applications received	Permissions granted	Permissions refused	Granted on appeal
2001				
2002				
2003				
2004				
2005				
2006				

IF ANY PLANNING APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN REFUSED SINCE 2001; OTHERS GO TO F7

F6. Please give the reasons for refusal.

F7. Has your authority experienced unauthorised development of sites for Travelling Showpeople since 2001? (*ie sites being established without planning permission*)

Yes

No

IF YES

How many? **Write in**

F8. Has your authority taken any planning enforcement action in relation to the unauthorised development of sites for Travelling Showpeople since 2001?

Yes

No

IF YES

On how many occasions? **Write in**

F9. We are keen to identify good practice in all aspects of local engagement with Travelling Showpeople. Please give details below of any aspects of your approach to planning or other issues which you think works well and is worth sharing with others.

THE REMAINDER OF SECTION F ONLY APPLIES WHERE THERE ARE EITHER:

- **EXISTING AUTHORISED SITES FOR TRAVELLING SHOWPEOPLE (F9) AND/OR**
- **EXISTING UNAUTHORISED SITES DEVELOPED BY TRAVELLING SHOWPEOPLE WITHOUT PLANNING PERMISSION (F10).**

OTHERS – THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

The following sub-section relates to existing AUTHORISED SITES for Travelling Showpeople

In the course of the research we will need to map sites for Travelling Showpeople and Circus Families, and may wish to interview their residents. We therefore need basic background information on each relevant site. Please provide as much detail as possible in F10. Copy sheets if there are more than 3 sites in your area.

F10. For **each** authorised site for Travelling Showpeople and Circus Families in your area please provide details of site name, address and total number of pitches. Please give contact details, where known for the site owner/manager. In the final space, please record the nature of the planning permission to allow us to identify any sites which have a temporary or personal permission.

Site for Travelling Showpeople 1

Site name	
Full address (inc. post code or OS grid reference)	
Total number of pitches	
Contact details for site owner/manager	
Nature of planning consent	

Site for Travelling Showpeople 2

Site name	
Full address (inc. post code or OS grid reference)	
Total number of pitches	
Contact details for site owner/manager	
Nature of planning consent	

Site for Travelling Showpeople 3

Site name	
Full address (inc. post code or OS grid reference)	
Total number of pitches	
Contact details for site owner/manager	
Nature of planning consent	

The following sub-section relates to UNAUTHORISED SITES DEVELOPED BY TRAVELLING SHOWPEOPLE OR CIRCUS FAMILIES WITHOUT PLANNING PERMISSION

In the course of the research we will need to map unauthorised sites developed by Travelling Showpeople and Circus Families, and may wish to interview residents. We therefore need basic background information on each relevant site. Please provide as much detail as possible in F11. Copy sheets if there are more than 2 unauthorised developments in your area.

F11. For **each** unauthorised development of a site for Travelling Showpeople or Circus Families in your area please provide details of site name, address and total number of pitches. Please give contact details, where known for the site owner/manager. In the final space please note any enforcement action being taken.

Unauthorised Travelling Showpeople development 1

Site name	
Full address (or indication of location, eg Postcode or OS grid reference)	
Total number of pitches	
Contact details for site owner	
What enforcement action, if any, is being taken? Write in	

Unauthorised Travelling Showpeople development 2

Site name	
Full address (or indication of location, eg Postcode or OS grid reference)	
Total number of pitches	
Contact details for site owner	
What enforcement action, if any, is being taken? Write in	

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Appendix 2

Ribble Valley Gypsy & Traveller Study Bricks & Mortar Questionnaire

Introduction

My name is [] and I work for the University of Salford in Manchester [show badge]. We have been asked by the local council in this area to see what sort of accommodation Gypsies and other Travellers need locally. We want to be sure that we understand what Gypsies and Travellers need and would like the help of Gypsies and Travellers to do this. We're looking to speak with a number of people staying in the local area, in houses, on council sites, on private sites and on the roadside, to get a range of views. The views that we collect may help plan and improve accommodation, sites, planning and other services in the future.

We are completely independent of any local council or the government. Would you be willing to talk to me? If you agree it will probably about 20 minutes. I have a number of questions I would like to ask but I would like to hear about anything else you feel is relevant. I will be writing down your answers but the interview will be confidential and no one will be identified in any report that we write, and there is no way that anyone will be able to trace any particular answer back to you.

So, 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: _____
(or nearest village, postcode, Landmarks, etc...)

Date of Interview: _____

Interviewer name: _____

Start time: _____ End time: _____

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

SECTION A: Current accommodation

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

Q1. Type of house: **(Please tick ✓ one box only)**

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| House | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Bungalow | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Flat/Maisonette | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other (please specify below) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
-

Q2. Do you own the house/flat or rent it? **(Please tick ✓ one box only)**

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Owner-occupier | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Council tenant | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| RSL/HA tenant (please specify which if known) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
-
- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Private tenant | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other (please specify below) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
-

Q3. How many bedrooms do you have here?
(Please tick ✓ one box only)

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

Q4. Does this give you enough space?

- Yes **Go to Q 6**
- No **Go to Q 5**
- Don't know **Go to Q 6**

Q5. If **NO**, why?

Q6. How would you rate the following aspects of your current house?

Please tick ✓ one box only for each aspect

Aspect	Very good	Good	Neither good nor poor	Poor	Very poor
Size of house					
Design of house					
Neighbours					
Location					
Facilities at the house					
Condition/state of repair					

Q7. Do you have access to:

	Yes	No
Water supply		
Electricity supply		
Rubbish storage and collection		
WC		
Bath		
Shower		
Kitchen facilities		
Laundry facilities		
Space for eating or sitting		
Postal delivery		
Fire precautions		
Somewhere for children to play		

Q8. Do you have any concerns about health and safety, or security, at this house?

- Yes **Go to Q 9**
- No **Go to Q 10**
- Don't know **Go to Q 10**

Q9. If **YES**, please describe your concerns below:

Q10. What one or two things would most improve this house/flat for you?

Q11. How long have you been in this house?

Please tick ✓ one box only

- Up to 1 week
- 2-4 weeks
- More than 1 month but less than 3
- 3 months or more but less than 6
- 6 months or more but less than 12
- 1 years or more but less than 3
- 3 years or more but less than 5
- 5 or more years
- Don't know

Q12. How long do you think you will stay in this house?

Please tick ✓ one box only

- Up to 1 week **Go to Q 13**
- 2-4 weeks **Go to Q 13**
- More than 1 month but less than 3 **Go to Q 13**
- 3 months or more but less than 6 **Go to Q 13**
- 6 months or more but less than 12 **Go to Q 13**
- 1 years or more but less than 3 **Go to Q 13**
- 3 years or more but less than 5 **Go to Q 13**
- 5 or more years **Go to Q 13**
- Indefinitely **Go to Q 20**
- Don't know **Go to Q 20**

Q13. Why are you going to leave this house?

Q14. Would you like to stay in this area?

- Yes **Go to Q 15**
No **Go to Q 17**
Don't know **Go to Q 20**

Q15. If **YES**, which specific area?

(Interviewer: need to be as specific as possible)

Q16. If **YES**, what type of accommodation are you looking for?

	Yes	No
Roadside/informal stopping place		
Own site with planning permission		
Site owned by council		
Private site owned by someone else		
Piece of land to buy (without planning permission)		
Another house		
Other (please specify below)		

Q17. If **NO** (they don't want to stay in the area) where would you like to live?

Q18. Why do you want to live in that place?

Q19. Why do you not currently live there?

Q20. Do you still own trailers/caravans/buses?

Yes **Go to Q 21**

No **Go to Q 23**

Don't know **Go to Q 23**

Q21. How many trailers/caravans/buses do you have at present? _____

Q22. Where do you keep them?

SECTION B: Travelling

If it's ok I'd like to talk about your experiences of travelling in general and how it has changed.

Q23. Would you say you are local to this area (i.e. town they are in/nearest town)?

Yes

No

Don't know

Q24. Are there particular reasons for living in this area?

	Yes	No
Place of birth		
Have family living in area		
Work opportunities		
Schools		
Holiday		
Only place I could find		
Family or community event		
Other (please specify below)		

Q25. Do you have a base somewhere else?

Yes **Go to Q 26**

No **Go to Q 27**

Don't know **Go to Q 27**

Q26. If **YES:**, where is it and what type of site?

A: Where is it?

B: What type of site (i.e. LA, House, private, etc)?

Q27. How often do you travel at present? (Travelling whilst living in a caravan, trailer or bus?) **Please tick ✓ one box only**

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Every week | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 29 |
| Every month | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 29 |
| Every couple of months | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 29 |
| Seasonally | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 29 |
| Once per year only | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 29 |
| Never | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 28-29 (then go to to Q 40) |

Q28. If **NEVER**, why is this?

Q29. Is this typical, or has it changed over the past few years?

- | | | |
|------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Typical | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 31 |
| Changed | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 30 |
| Don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 31 |

Q30. If **CHANGED**, why?

Q31. The last time you travelled, who did you mostly travel with?

	Yes	No
By self		
Own household		
Other family members		
Friends		
Other (please specify below)		

Q32. Which places do you like to go? - **List 3 main areas**

1. _____
(nearest town: _____)
2. _____
(nearest town: _____)
3. _____
(nearest town: _____)

Q33. How many trailers/caravans/buses do you normally travel with?

Q34. How many people are usually in the group you travel with?

Q35. In the last 12 months, did you travel for any of the following reasons?

	Yes	No
Work opportunities		
A holiday		
Attend a fair		
To visit relatives		
To attend family events		
To attend community events		
Other (please specify below)		

Q36. What was your main reason for travelling in the last 12 months?

Q37. In the last 12 months have you stayed at any of the following?

	Yes	No
Roadside (countryside)		
Roadside (town/city)		
Caravan park		
With family/relatives on private sites		
With family/relatives on council/public sites		
Public or private transit sites		
Hotels		
Farmer's fields		
Other (please specify below)		

Q38. Were you ever forced to leave a site while you were travelling in the last 12 months?

- Yes **Go to Q 39**
No **Go to Q 40**
Don't know **Go to Q 40**

Q39. What were the reasons for leaving?

	Yes	No
Eviction		
Harassment		
Fears over personal safety		
Site closure		
Other (please specify below)		

Q40. In the future, do you think you are likely to travel more than now, less than now or about the same?

- More than currently
Less than currently
About the same as currently
Don't know

Q41. In the next 12 months, do you anticipate travelling:

	Yes	No
Within the same local area		
Within Ribble Valley		
Other parts of the UK		
Abroad		

Q42. In the future, when travelling, where would you like to pull on to/stay?

	Yes	No
Roadside		
Caravan park		
With family/relatives on private sites		
With family/relatives on council/public sites		
Public or private transit sites		
Farmer's fields		
Hotels		
Other (please specify below)		

SECTION C: Previous Housing and Site Experiences

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

Q43. What type of accommodation did you live in/on immediately before you came here?

Please tick ✓ one box only

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Roadside | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Caravan park | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| On private site – land owned by you | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| On private site – rented pitch | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| On council/RSL site | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| On private transit site | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| On council/RSL transit site | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Bricks and mortar (house) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other (please specify below) | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q44. Where was this? (**i.e. location**)

Q45. Why did you leave there and come here?

	Yes	No
Health reasons/Illness		
Eviction		
Harassment		
Fears over personal safety		
Site closure		
Wanted independence		
Work reasons		
Children's schooling		
To travel		
Site/accommodation conditions		
Get married/live with partner		
No particular reason		
Other (please specify below)		

Q46. Besides this one, have you ever lived in a house before?

- Yes **Go to Q 47**
- No **Go to Q 52**
- Don't know **Go to Q 52**

Q47. What type of house? **Please tick ✓ one box only**

- Council rented
- RSL rented
- Private rented
- Privately owned
- Other (please specify below)
-

Q48. What type of property was it? **Please tick ✓ one box only**

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| House | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Flat | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Bungalow | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other (please specify below) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
-

Q49. Where was it? (i.e. location)

Q50. What was the main reason for moving to this property?

Please tick ✓ one box only

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Moved there with parents/family | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Born/raised there | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Health reasons (explain below) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
-

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Lack of sites | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| For children's schooling/education | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Homeless | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other (please specify below) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
-

Q51. Why did you leave this previous house?

Q52. Are you on the waiting list for another house?

- | | | |
|------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 53 |
| No | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 54 |
| Don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 54 |

Q53. If **YES**, which list? where?

Q54. Have you ever bought your own land?

- Yes **Go to Q 55**
No **Go to Q 58**
Don't know **Go to Q 58**

Q55. If **YES**, did you apply for planning permission?

- Yes **Go to Q 56**
No **Go to Q 58**
Don't know **Go to Q 58**

Q56. If **YES**, do you apply before or after you bought the land?

- Before **Go to Q 57**
After **Go to Q 57**
Don't know **Go to Q 58**

Q57. Do you mind telling us a bit about what happened with the planning process?

Q58. Thinking back, can you tell me about the best place you have ever lived? What was it like? Why was it so good?

Q59. What about the worst place you have ever lived? What was it like? Why was it so bad?

SECTION D: Household Details

If it's ok I'd like now to ask a few questions about yourself and your family who live with you?

Q60. How many people are there in your household? _____

Q61. How many adults are there in your household aged 60 or over _____

Q62. How many children are there in your household aged:

- | | |
|---------|--------------------------|
| None | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0 – 4 | _____ |
| 5 – 10 | _____ |
| 11 – 16 | _____ |

Q63. Thinking about just the adults that live with you (in the immediate family) can you tell me, their ages, whether they are male or female and their relationship to you? **Please begin with yourself as ‘number 1 family member’**

Please put a tick ✓ in the appropriate boxes

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

Q64. Is there anyone in your household who is **currently** in need of their own accommodation?

Yes **Go to Q 65**

No **Go to Q 69**

Don't know **Go to Q 69**

Q65. How many members of your household? _____

Q66. Who? _____

Q67. Are they likely to want to stay near you?

Yes

No

Don't know

Q68. What sort of accommodation are they likely to want?

House

Flat

Trailer/caravan/bus

Up to them

Don't know

Q69. Is there anyone in your household (e.g. son or daughter) who is likely to want their own separate accommodation **in the next 5 years**?

Yes **Go to Q 70**

No **Go to Q 74**

Don't know **Go to Q 74**

Q70. How many members of your household? _____

Q71. Who? _____

Q72. Are they likely to want to stay near you?

Yes

No

Don't know

Q73. What sort of accommodation are they likely to want?

House

Flat

Trailer/caravan/bus

Up to them

Don't know

Q74. Does anyone in your household experience any of the following?

Please tick ✓ one box only for each condition

Type of condition	None	One person	Two people	Three+ people
Mobility problems				
Visual impairment				
Hearing impairment				
Mental health problems				
Learning disability				
Communication problems				

Q75. Does anyone in your household suffer from any other health problems?

- Yes **Go to Q 76**
No **Go to Q 77**
Don't know **Go to Q 77**

Q76. If **YES**, please describe the health problem:

Q77. How do you think of yourself? **Please tick ✓ one box only**

- Romany/Gypsy (English)
Welsh Gypsy/Traveller
Scottish Gypsy/ Traveller
Irish Traveller
New Traveller
Traveller (not specified)
Showmen/Circus person
Roma
Bargee/Boat dweller
Other (please specify below)

Don't know
Refused

Q78. Do you keep any animals/birds?

(Interviewer: please find out how many of each, if possible)

Dogs	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____ (number)
Horses	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Chickens	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Other (please specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

Q79. Where do you keep them and do you have any issues with regards to keeping animals/birds?

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

Q80. Firstly, do you and your family work: **Please tick ✓ one box only**

Mostly in this area	<input type="checkbox"/>	Go to Q 81
Travel for work (outside the area)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Go to Q 81
Work in and out of the area	<input type="checkbox"/>	Go to Q 81
Work only seasonally	<input type="checkbox"/>	Go to Q 81
Other (please specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Go to Q 81

Don't work **Go to Q 89**

Q81. Are you and your family employed/self employed?

(Please write the number in if appropriate)

Self employed	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Employed	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

Q82. Do you mind telling me what type of work do you and your family do?

Q83. Does your travelling lifestyle impact on your work at all?
(If they don't travel you don't need to ask this)

- Yes **Go to Q 84**
No **Go to Q 85**
Don't know **Go to Q 85**

Q84. If **YES**, in what ways?

Q85. Does work ever impact on your travelling lifestyle?
(If they don't travel you don't need to ask this)

- Yes **Go to Q 86**
No **Go to Q 87**
Don't know **Go to Q 87**

Q86. If **YES**, in what ways?

Q87. Do you have any accommodation needs relating to your work?

- Yes **Go to Q 88**
No **Go to Q 89**
Don't know **Go to Q 89**

Q88. If **YES**, in what ways?

Q89. Have you ever been on any training courses for work?

- Yes **Go to Q 90**
No **Go to Q 91**
Don't know **Go to Q 91**

Q90. If **YES**, was this:

- A local college or similar
Training provided by family or friends?
An apprenticeship/on the job training

Q91. Would you like to take part in some training in the future?

- Yes **Go to Q 92**
No **Go to Q 93**
Don't know **Go to Q 93**

Q92. If **YES**, what type of training?

SECTION E: Services

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

Q93. Access to services:

A: Do you or your family feel that you have sufficient access to the following services?

B: How important are these services to you?

Service	A		B				
	Have access		Very important	Quite important	Not so important	Not important at all	Don't know
	Yes	No					
Public transport							
GP/health centre							
Health visitor							
Social worker							
Maternity care							
A&E							
Dentist							
Sports & leisure services							
Local shops							
Banks							
Post office							
Nursery schools & children's service							
Services for older people							
Youth clubs							

Q94. Is there anything that stops you from accessing any of the above?

Yes **Go to Q 95**

No **Go to Q 96**

Don't know **Go to Q 96**

Q95. If **YES**, what?

Q96. Are there any ways in which you think services could be improved?

Q97. Do you think that the people working in the different services need to be more aware of issues affecting Gypsies and Travellers?

Yes **Go to Q 98**

No **Go to Q 99**

Don't know **Go to Q 99**

Q98. If **YES**, why and in what ways?

Q99. If you need help with something and you don't know where to go, who do you normally ask?

Parents/relatives

Friends

Landlord/owner of the property

No one

Other (please specify below)

Q100. I am going to read out a list of things which people sometimes want help or support with. Please can you tell me if you would definitely use, might use, or would never use services offering help with the following things:

Support need	Would never use	Might use	Would definitely use	Don't know
Finding accommodation				
Settling into new accommodation				
Budgeting				
Meeting people				
Accessing a GP				
Accessing legal services				
Harassment				
Claiming benefits				
Finding a job				
Accessing training (for adults)				
Pregnancy				
Parenting				
Filling in forms				
Guidance on planning issues				

Q101. Are there any other services you would like help with?

- Yes **Go to Q 102**
 No **Go to Q 103**
 Don't know **Go to Q 103**

Q102. If **YES**, what?

Q103. Have you experienced harassment or discrimination in this area because you are a Gypsy or Traveller?

- Yes **Go to Q 104**
No **Go to Q 105**
Don't know **Go to Q 105**

Q104. If **YES**, what happened?

Q105. What are your experiences of Policing in this area?

Q106. (**Check back to see if they have school aged children then ask**) Do the children attend school regularly?

(If they don't have school aged children ask Q 110 and Q 114)

- Yes **Go to Q 107**
No **Go to Q 109**
Don't know **Go to Q 109**

Q107. Overall, how would you rate your children's schools?

Please tick ✓ one box only

- Very good **Go to Q 108**
Good **Go to Q 108**
Neither good nor poor **Go to Q 108**
Poor **Go to Q 108**
Very poor **Go to Q 108**
Don't know **Go to Q 110**

Q108. Why do you give this rating?

Q109. Do the children receive home education?

- Yes **Go to Q 110**
- No **Go to Q 110**
- Don't know **Go to Q 110**

Q110. How easy or difficult do you think it is for Gypsies and Travellers to access schools/education in this area?

- Very easy
- Easy
- Neither easy nor difficult
- Difficult
- Very difficult
- Don't know

Q111. Do you have contact with the Traveller Education Service?

- Yes **Go to Q 112**
- No **Go to Q 114**
- Don't know **Go to Q 114**

Q112. How would you rate this service? **Please tick ✓ one box only**

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Very good | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 113 |
| Good | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 113 |
| Neither good nor poor | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 113 |
| Poor | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 113 |
| Very poor | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 113 |
| Don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 114 |

Q113. Why do you give this rating?

Q114. What is your highest level of educational qualification?

SECTION F: Future Accommodation

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

Q115. Would you move to a/another long-stay residential site?

- Yes **Go to Q 116**
No **Go to Q 118**
Don't know **Go to Q 118**

Q116. How long would you like to stop at a long-stay residential site?

Please tick ✓ one box only

- Up to 1 week
2-4 weeks
More than 1 month but less than 3
3 months or more but less than 6
6 months or more but less than 12
1 years or more but less than 3
3 years or more but less than 5
5 or more years
Don't know

Q117. Where would you like the site to be?

	Yes	No
Within the same local area		
Within Ribble Valley		
Other parts of the UK		
Abroad		

Interviewer please write down specific location, if given:

Q118. Would you be interested in stopping on any of the following and how long would you stop at each?

Please tick ✓ all that apply and write length of time

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-------|
| Private transit site | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Council transit site | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Transit pitch on a residential private site | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Transit pitch on a residential council site | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Designated stopping places | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Other (please specify below) | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
-

Q119. What is your preference from these options?

Interviewer: please ✓ one box only

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Private transit site | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Council transit site | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Transit pitch on a residential private site | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Transit pitch on a residential council site | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Designated stopping places | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other (please specify below) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
-

Q120. What do you think about sites that incorporate long stay/permanent plots/chalets with short stay/transit facilities?

- | | | |
|------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Good idea | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 121 |
| Bad idea | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 121 |
| Don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Q 122 |

Q121. Why?

Q122. What do you think should be the maximum number of pitches on:

Please write the number in

A residential site _____

A transit site _____

Q123. Are you currently on a waiting list for a site?

Yes **Go to Q 124**

No **Go to Q 125**

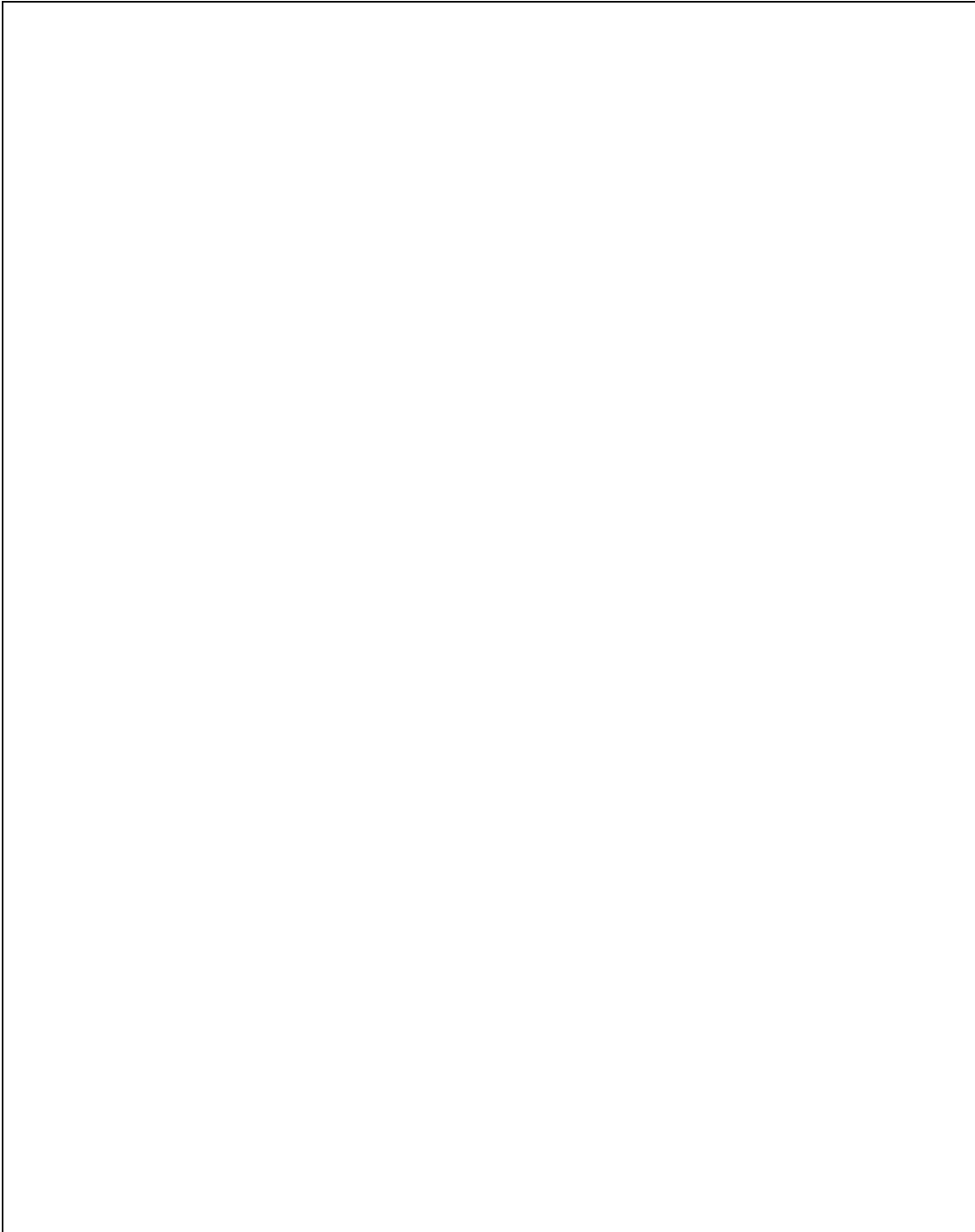
Don't know **Go to Q 125**

Q124. If **YES**, which site? Where? Is it LA/private/RSL?

Q125. Thinking about all the things we've talked about, we would like you to give your opinion about the following ways of living, and rate them on a scale of **1 to 10 (1 being worst option, 10 being best option)**:

Way of living										
A private site owned and lived on by you/your family	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A site owned by another Gypsy/Traveller	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A site owned by a private landlord (not a Gypsy/Traveller)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A site owned by the local council	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A house owned by you and your family	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A house rented from the local council or housing association	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Travelling around and stopping on authorised transit sites/pitches/stopping places	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A site incorporating long stay/permanent plots/housing with short stay/transit facilities	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Q126. Finally, are there any other issues/concerns that we haven't talked about that you'd like to mention?



Thank you very much for your time

For further details on the study please contact Dr Phil Brown on 0161 295 3647 or Dr Lisa Hunt on 0161 295 5078