

ASHFORD LOCAL PLAN 2030
EXAMINATION LIBRARY
GBD16

Ashford Borough Council

**GYPSY, TRAVELLER AND
TRAVELLING SHOWPEOPLE
ACCOMMODATION ASSESSMENT**

ADOPTED MAY 2013



Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment: Ashford Borough Council

Final Report

Philip Brown and Joanna Wilson Brown
Salford Housing & Urban Studies Unit
University of Salford

May 2013



University of
Salford
MANCHESTER

About the Authors

Philip Brown is Senior Research Fellow and Joanna Brown is a Research Associate within the Salford Housing & Urban Studies Unit (SHUSU) at the University of Salford.

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

Study Team

Core team members:	Community Interviewers:
Dr Philip Brown Joanna Brown Victoria Morris	Sharon Finney Tracey Finney

Acknowledgements

Without the time, expertise and contributions of a number of individuals and organisations, this study could not have been completed. Officers from within Ashford Borough Council provided assistance throughout the project and thanks must go to all of them for their support.

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

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

Contents

About the Authors.....	2
Acknowledgements.....	3
Glossary	6
Executive Summary	8
1. Introduction.....	11
Background and Scope.....	11
This study.....	12
Methodological Approach.....	12
Structure of the Report	13
2. Policy Context.....	15
National Planning Policy 2006-2011.....	15
Regional Planning Policy 2006-2011	15
Current National Planning Policy.....	16
Planning Policy Summary	18
Defining Gypsies and Travellers	18
Housing/Accommodation Need	20
Defining a Pitch	21
Conventions.....	21
Current Local Planning Policy for Ashford.....	22
3. The bi-annual Caravan Count and size of the population.....	23
Caravan Numbers and Trends from the Caravan Count	23
The size of the local Gypsy and Traveller Community	25
4. Authorised social and private sites	27
Socially rented site – Chilmington Gypsy Site	27
Socially Rented Sites: Survey Findings.....	28
Authorised Private Sites	32
Private Site Residents: Findings from those with Permanent Planning Permission	32
Private Sites with Temporary Planning Permission.....	37
Private Sites with Temporary Planning Permission: Survey Findings	37
5. Planning and Unauthorised Developments	38
Current Policy	38
Planning Applications	38
Unauthorised Development of Gypsy and Traveller Sites	40
5.7 Ashford Council predicts that it is likely that the number of unauthorised sites will increase in the next five years.	40
Unauthorised Developments: Survey Findings	41
Unauthorised Encampments.....	42

Unauthorised Encampments: Survey Findings.....	43
6 Gypsies and Travellers in Social and Private Bricks and Mortar Accommodation	44
Estimating the Size of Gypsy and Traveller Population in Bricks and Mortar Housing	44
Living in Bricks and Mortar Accommodation: Survey Findings	46
7. Travelling	51
8. Future Accommodation, Household Formation and Accommodation Affordability ...	53
Future Accommodation Intentions	53
Household Concealment	54
Household Formation.....	54
Accommodation Affordability	55
9. An Assessment of Accommodation Need	58
A note on the Assessment of Accommodation Need	58
Explanation of the Need Requirement Elements.....	60
In Summary	65
10. Travelling Showpeople	66
Travelling Showpeople: Survey Findings	66
Assessment of Accommodation Need for Travelling Showpeople	67
Explanation of the Need Requirement Elements.....	68
In Summary	69
11. An Assessment of Need for Transit Accommodation	70
Need for Transit Sites and Stopping Places.....	70
Appendix 1: The Assessment Methodology	71
Appendix 3: Demographics of the Local Gypsy and Traveller Population.....	75
Appendix 4: Questionnaire	78

Glossary

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

Term	Explanation
Amenity block/shed	On most residential Gypsy/Travellers sites these are buildings where basic plumbing amenities (bath/shower, WC and sink) are provided at the rate of one building per pitch.
Authorised social site	An authorised site owned by either the local authority or a Registered Housing Provider.
Authorised Private site	An authorised site owned by a private individual (who may or may not be a Gypsy or a Traveller). These sites can be owner-occupied, rented or a mixture of owner-occupied and rented pitches. They may also have either permanent or temporary planning permission
Bricks and mortar	Permanent mainstream housing.
Caravan	Mobile living vehicle used by Gypsies and Travellers. Also referred to as trailers.
Caravan Count	Bi-annual count of Gypsy and Traveller caravans conducted every January and July by local authorities published by the CLG
Chalet	In the absence of a specific definition, the term 'chalet' is used here to refer to single storey residential units which resemble mobile homes but can be dismantled.
Core Strategy	Key compulsory Development Plan Document in the Council's Local Plan, which sets out the development strategy and strategic policies on which other Development Plan Documents are built.
Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG)	The main government department responsible for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation issues
Development Plan Documents (DPDs)	Documents which set out the development aims of the Council's Local Plan.
Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA)	Type of study used to identify and quantify the accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople
Doubling-up	To share a pitch on an authorised site.
Gaujo/Gorger	Literal translation indicates someone who is not of Romany Gypsy ethnicity. Romany word used mainly, but not exclusively, by Romany Gypsies to refer to members of the settled community/non-Gypsy/Travellers.
Green Belt	A policy or land use designation used to retain areas of largely undeveloped, wild, or agricultural land surrounding or neighbouring urban areas.
Gypsy	Members of Gypsy or Traveller communities. Usually used to describe Romany (English) Gypsies originating from India. This term is not acceptable to all Travellers.
Gypsies and Travellers (as used in this report)	Consistent with the Housing Act 2004, inclusive of: all Gypsies, Irish Travellers, New Travellers, Show People, Circus People and Gypsies and Travellers in bricks and mortar accommodation.
Homes and Communities Agency (HCA)	National housing and regeneration agency. Has been responsible for administering the Gypsy and Traveller Site Grant since 2009/10.

Local Plan	A set of documents which sets out the development strategy for the Borough.
Mobile home/Mobiles	Legally classified as a caravan but not usually moveable without dismantling or using a lorry.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	A document containing the Government's planning policies for England and how they are expected to be applied. It sets out requirements of the planning system and provides a framework within which local people and local councils can produce their own distinctive plans which reflect their needs and priorities.
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.
Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS)	A document containing the Governments planning policies for Traveller sites. This document should be read in conjunction with the National Planning Policy Framework.
Pulling-up	To park a trailer/caravan.
Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)	Part of the previous planning system across England. In July 2010 the government announced its decision to revoke RSSs. In March 2013 the government partially revoked the South East Plan.
Settled community/people	Reference to non-Travellers (those who live in houses).
Site	An authorised area of land on which Gypsies and Travellers are accommodated in trailers/chalets/vehicles. Can contain one or multiple pitches.
Static caravan	Larger caravan than the 'tourer' type. Can be moved but only with the use of a large vehicle. Often referred to simply as a trailer.
Stopping place	Locations frequented by Gypsies and Travellers, usually for short periods of time.
Suppressed/concealed household	Independent households, living within other households,
Trailer	Term commonly used by Gypsies and Travellers to refer to a moveable caravan.
Transit site	Site intended for short stays. Such sites are usually permanent, but there is a limit on the length of time residents can stay.
Travelling Showpeople	Commonly referred to as Showmen, these are a group of occupational Travellers who work on travelling shows and fairs across the UK and abroad.
Unauthorised Development	This refers to a caravan/trailer or group of caravans/trailers on land owned (possibly developed) by Gypsies and Travellers without planning permission.
Unauthorised Encampment	Residing in caravans/trailers on private/public land without the landowner's permission (for example, at the side of the road, on a car park or on a piece of undeveloped land).
Yard	Term used by Travelling Showpeople to refer to a site.

Executive Summary

The study

1. The Housing Act 2004 placed a duty upon local authorities to produce assessments of accommodation need for Gypsies and Travellers. In 2005/2006, DCA Research completed the *Ashford Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment* for Ashford Borough Council as part of a wider assessment for West Kent incorporating Ashford, Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge and Malling. This assessment provided an overview of the accommodation and related needs and experiences of the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population across Ashford.
2. In October 2012 Ashford Borough Council commissioned the Salford Housing & Urban Studies Unit (SHUSU) at the University of Salford to produce an updated Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment. The primary purpose of this assessment was to provide up to date information and data regarding the needs and requirements of the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities. This report presents the projection of pitch requirements for the period 2012 – 2028.
3. The assessment was jointly commissioned with Tonbridge and Malling, Gravesham, Ashford, Medway and Swale local authorities, and as such fieldwork and subsequent reports were produced simultaneously, facilitating knowledge sharing across boundary lines.
4. The assessment was undertaken by conducting a review of the following data sources:
 - Previous assessments of need and information submitted through the previous regional planning process;
 - The policy and guidance context;
 - The bi-annual Caravan Count;
 - Census 2011;
 - Information from the local authority with regards to pitch provision and supply;
 - Information from key stakeholders; and
 - A survey of 114 Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople households.
5. From the estimation of a base population of 187 households in Ashford, we consulted with 114 resident households; 61% of the estimated resident Gypsy and Traveller community across Ashford. We believe that the sample is as representative as can be reasonably expected given the relatively hidden nature of the population and the timescale available for the consultation period. The fieldwork took place during a two-week period in the November 2012. The base date used in this assessment is the 23rd November 2012.

Local Accommodation Provision

6. There is no one source of information about the size of the Gypsy and Traveller population across Ashford. Our best estimate in relation to the resident population is that there are at least 675 individuals or 187 households in Ashford. At the time of the study, the population was found across the following accommodation types:
- There is **one socially rented site** across the study area. This site has 16 pitches and currently accommodates 14 households.
 - There are **39 private sites with permanent planning permission and four private sites with temporary planning permission** across the study area. These sites currently accommodate 116 households.
 - There are **four unauthorised developments** across the study area. These sites currently accommodate four households.
 - It is estimated that we have interviewed three-quarters of the population living in bricks and mortar accommodation and as such estimate that there are at least **49 households living in bricks and mortar accommodation** in Ashford.
 - There is **one Travelling Showpeople Site in Ashford with a total of four** households.

Characteristics of local Gypsies and Travellers

7. The survey of Gypsies and Travellers identified some of the important characteristics of the local population.
- Although the average household size over the whole sample is 3.6, this varied between different accommodation types; for example, the average household size for those in bricks and mortar was 4, compared to 4.5 on unauthorised development sites, 3 on the council run sites, 3.6 on the private developments with planning permission and 3.3 on the Travelling Showpeople Yard.
 - The majority of Gypsies and Travellers on all site types have strong and longstanding local connections. The Ashford community generally appears to be a settled one with little travelling and very little intention to move or to travel.
 - The local population is largely Romany Gypsies (90%), with a smaller number of Travelling Showmen and Irish Travellers.
 - The population are most likely to not travel or only travel for one to two weeks per year.

Accommodation Need and Supply

8. There are no signs that the growth in the Gypsy and Traveller population will slow significantly. Research from the Equalities and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has indicated that around 6,000 additional pitches for Gypsies and Travellers are immediately required to meet the current shortage of accommodation within England.

9. This study has taken a thorough assessment of the need arising from all accommodation types present at the time of the survey. As such, this assessment of need should be regarded as a reasonable and robust assessment of need upon which to base planning decisions going forward. Sites granted permanent permission after 16th July 2012 contribute supply to the need requirements detailed in the table below. Those granted temporary permission will add to need.

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

	Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Need Total (No. of pitches)	Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Need (No. of pitches)
Current authorised residential provision (pitches)	124	4
Residential need 2012 - 2017 (pitches)	17	0
Residential need 2017 –2022 (pitches)	17	0
Residential need 2022 –2027 (pitches)	19	0
Residential need 2027 –2028 (pitches)	4	0
Residential need 2012/13 –2027/28 (pitches)	57	0

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

1. Introduction

Background and Scope

- 1.1 In April 2012 the Department of Communities and Local Government produced a progress report from the ministerial working group on tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers as an update to the Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites (2007). Both these reports detail the importance for local authorities to meet Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs as a fundamental element of ensuring greater opportunity for equality with other groups of society in terms of housing, education and health. The Housing Act (2004) placed a duty upon local authorities to carry out assessments of accommodation needs. The first assessment of the accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople was carried out in Ashford in 2005/06 under the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS).
- 1.2 The last GTAA found the Gypsy and Traveller communities in Ashford to be fairly stable, with little evidence to suggest movement out of the area within the local population. DCA Research concluded the projected need in the next five years from 2006 to be twelve pitches.
- 1.3 The South East England Regional Assembly conducted a partial review of the GTAAs carried out so far, including the GTAA carried out by DCA Research for West Kent. This review found that West Kent generally had low reports of family formations and a possible over-estimation of movements from pitch based accommodation into bricks and mortar. The assessment was thought to lack transparency in some areas, and as such the examination panel proposed two options for Kent Local Authorities which deployed different methodologies for calculating pitch requirements.
- 1.4 For Ashford, Option A resulted in distribution of pitches of 14 for 2006-2011 and eight for 2011-2016. For Option B, this changed to 31 for 2006-2011 and 11 for 2011-2016.
- 1.5 In 2010 the RSS process was underway but this ceased as a result of the revocation of the RSS. As a result, planning for Gypsies and Travellers at the regional level was halted and responsibility for identifying need was placed with the local planning authorities.
- 1.6 This report was commissioned in a co-operative arrangement between five local authority areas (Tonbridge & Malling, Gravesham, Ashford, Medway and Swale). Representatives of these local authorities commissioned individual GTAA reports with joint meetings between these authorities and SHUSU taking place. The fieldwork for these reports was undertaken simultaneously allowing for the incorporation of issues from all stakeholder groups (e.g. officers, Gypsies, Travellers etc.) to be accounted for within the appropriate reports. This allowed for knowledge to be shared across local authority boundary lines.

- 1.7 In addition to the individual reports for each of the Local Authorities included in the commissioning partnership, an overarching report will be produced at the end of the project which will detail any cross boundary patterns and issues.

This study

- 1.8 In October 2012, Ashford Borough Council commissioned Salford Housing and Urban Studies Unit (SHUSU) at the University of Salford to produce an updated Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment. The aim of this assessment is to provide up to date information on the accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. This report presents the projection of permanent and transit requirements for the period 2012-2028.

Methodological Approach

- 1.9 In order to carry out a full assessment of the accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople a multi-layered approach has been taken, using a variety of different data sources:
- **Secondary Data** – including analysis of the previous GTAA carried out in Ashford, the policy guidance context, The bi-annual caravan count, 2011 census data for Gypsies and Travellers and local authority information on sites and pitches
 - **Stakeholder interviews** – Ashford Planning Officers, Kent Police, The Showman's Guild, The Gypsy and Travellers Unit at Kent County Council
 - **A survey of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople** – face to face structured interviews with 114 households living in trailer-based and bricks and mortar accommodation across Ashford. See appendices for specific details of this sample and the research process. Table 1.1 summarises survey response by number of sites and estimated/known number of households across Ashford.

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

Type of accommodation	Number of sites			Number of known occupied pitches/households		
	Total	Sample	%	Total	Sample	%
Socially rented sites	1	1	100%	14	14	100%
Private sites with permanent planning permission	39	25	66%	108	56	52%
Private sites with temporary planning permission	4	1	25%	8	1	13%
Unauthorised developments	4	2	50%	4	2	50%
Travelling Showpeople	1	1	100%	4	4	100%
Unauthorised encampments	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
TOTAL SITE BASED POPULATION	49	30	61%	138	77	56%
Bricks and Mortar	N/A	N/A	N/A	49*	37	75%

* Total bricks and mortar population is based on an estimate

- 1.10 The key points to note from the methodological approach adopted are:

- When the estimated population living in bricks and mortar housing is included (see Chapter 3 for reasons for this estimation) it is assumed that there are 187 households in Ashford. Of this we consulted with **114 resident** households; 61% of the estimated resident Gypsy and Traveller community across Ashford. We believe that the sample is as representative as can be reasonably expected given the relatively hidden nature of the population and the timescale available for the consultation period. Generally, the fieldworkers were able to access community members representing all accommodation types of interest to the study.
- Household interviews were achieved on all forms of accommodation with the exception of unauthorised encampments, which are thought to be at a low level in the district.
- Due to the size of the sample, it is reasonable to gross up findings from the survey to the total population of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in the study area. See Chapter 9 for a description of how the survey findings have been translated into accommodation need.

Structure of the Report

- 1.11 This report is intended to assist Ashford in their formulation of planning policies for the provision of accommodation for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities. It sets out the background and current policy context, identifies the estimated population and presents evidence of rising accommodation need.
- **Chapter 2** looks at relevant past, present and emerging policy context in the area of Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation
 - **Chapter 3** looks at the trends in caravan numbers detailed in the bi-annual caravan count and estimates the size of the local Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople communities
 - **Chapter 4** discusses current authorised provision across Ashford, including the views of people living at the sites and information collated from key stakeholders
 - **Chapter 5** looks at the level of planning applications made in Ashford, the presence of unauthorised sites, including the views of people living at the sites and information obtained from the local authority
 - **Chapter 6** looks at the numbers of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople living in bricks and mortar accommodation, including the views of community members accommodated in housing
 - **Chapter 7** looks at the issue of travelling across all communities in the study area
 - **Chapter 8** looks at future accommodation need from concealed households and household formation within existing households and accommodation affordability
 - **Chapter 9** provides a numerical assessment of accommodation need for Ashford
 - **Chapter 10** discusses current authorised Travelling Showpeople provision across Ashford, including the views of people living at the sites and information collated from key stakeholders. Additionally, the assessment of accommodation need is detailed in this chapter.

- **Chapter 11** provides an analysis of the need for transit provision
- 1.12 The base date for this assessment is the 23rd November 2012. The analysis presented is based on the position at the time of the survey. Any accommodation provided/removed since this date will affect the level of accommodation need identified in this study.

2. Policy Context

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

National Planning Policy 2006-2011

- 2.2 The main document for detailing planning policy in England over the 2006-2011 periods was ODPM Circular 01/2006 *Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites*. This specifies that the aims of legislation and policy were to:
- Ensure that Gypsies and Travellers have fair access to suitable accommodation, education, health and welfare provision.
 - Reduce the number of unauthorised encampments and developments.
 - Increase significantly the number of Gypsy and Traveller sites in appropriate locations and with planning permission in order to address under-provision by 2011.
 - Protect the traditional travelling way of life of Gypsies and Travellers.
 - Underline the importance of assessing accommodation need.
 - Promote private site provision.
 - Avoid Gypsies and Travellers becoming homeless, where eviction from unauthorised sites occurs and where there is no alternative accommodation.
- 2.3 The circular directed local authorities to assess needs through Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments, which should then form part of the evidence base for subsequent Development Plan Documents.
- 2.4 Travelling Showpeople were the subjects of separate planning guidance, CLG Circular 04/07, which aimed to ensure that the system for pitch assessment, identification and allocation as introduced for Gypsies and Travellers was also applied to Travelling Showpeople.

Regional Planning Policy 2006-2011

- 2.5 ODPM Circular 01/2006 made it clear that district level requirements identified in GTAAs were to be submitted to the relevant Regional Planning Body (RPB).¹ The RPB would then, in turn, identify overall pitch requirements on a district-by-district basis once a strategic view of needs had been taken through the process of producing the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). The broad purpose of the strategic view was to ensure requirements were identified fairly and did not compound existing inequalities of accommodation provision.

¹ In the case of the South East this was the South East of England Regional Assembly (SEERA) which was then dissolved with the planning function transferring to the South East England Partnership Board

The intention was that these figures, once agreed, would be incorporated into the RSS, which would then form part of each local authority's Development Plan.

- 2.6 During early 2010 a Partial Review of the South East Plan in respect of planning for Gypsies and Travellers was examined in public, including the regional pitch requirements identified for the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities. In July 2010 the Secretary of State announced his intention to revoke all Regional Strategies; as a consequence the South East RSS Partial Review was not completed. Local authorities were advised to continue to develop LDF core strategies and, where these had already been adopted, use the adopted Development Plan Documents as the local planning framework. Specific guidance was provided in July 2010 in the form of a letter from the Chief Planner in order to assist in the determination of provision for Gypsy and Traveller sites.² With respect to the needs of Gypsies and Travellers this guidance stated that:

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

Current National Planning Policy

- 2.7 In March 2012 the government published the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) for England and Wales. This Framework represents a core aspect of the Government's reforms to the planning system to make it less complex and more accessible, to protect the environment and to promote sustainable growth.
- 2.8 In tandem with the publication of the NPPF the Government published a new policy on Gypsy and Travellers³ and the two documents should be read in conjunction. This replaces Circulars 01/06 and 04/2007.
- 2.9 Paragraph 3 of this Policy states that the Government's overarching aim is:

"To ensure fair and equal treatment for Travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic way of life of Travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community."

- 2.10 Further detail on this overarching aim is subsequently provided in paragraph 4 of this policy which states that the Government's aims for Traveller sites are:

² https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7995/100706-Letter_to_Chief_Planning_Officers-Revocation_of_Regional_Strategies.pdf

³ CLG (2012) Planning policy for Traveller sites

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

2.11 Policy A: Using evidence to plan positively and manage development sets out that Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) should consider the following in developing the evidence base:

- a) “pay particular attention to early and effective community engagement with both settled and Traveller communities (including discussing Travellers’ accommodation needs with Travellers themselves, their representative bodies and local support groups)
- b) co-operate with Travellers, their representative bodies and local support groups, other local authorities and relevant interest groups to prepare and maintain an up-to-date understanding of the likely permanent and transit accommodation needs of their areas over the lifespan of their development plan working collaboratively with neighbouring local planning authorities
- c) Use a robust evidence base to establish accommodation needs to inform the preparation of local plans and make planning decisions.”

2.12 Policy B: Planning for Traveller sites states that LPAs should set pitch targets for Gypsies and Travellers and plot targets for Travelling Showpeople to meet needs in

their area, working collaboratively with neighbouring planning authorities. Paragraph 9 in this policy states that LPAs should, in producing their Local Plan:

- a) Identify and update annually, a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide five years' worth of sites against their locally set targets;
- b) Identify a supply of specific, developable sites or broad locations for growth, for years six to ten and, where possible, for years 11-15;
- c) consider production of joint development plans that set targets on a cross-authority basis, to provide more flexibility in identifying sites, particularly if a local planning authority has special or strict planning constraints across its area (local planning authorities have a duty to cooperate on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries);
- d) Relate the number of pitches or plots to the circumstances of the specific size and location of the site and the surrounding population's size and density;
- e) Protect local amenity and environment.

- 2.13 Paragraph 10 notes that criteria should be set out to guide land supply allocations where there is an identified need. It states that:

"Criteria should be set to guide land supply allocations where there is identified need. Where there is no identified need, criteria-based policies should be included to provide a basis for decisions in case applications nevertheless come forward. Criteria based policies should be fair and should facilitate the traditional and nomadic life of Travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community."

Planning Policy Summary

- 2.14 Cumulatively this policy makes it clear that there is a fundamental need for LPAs to understand and plan for the needs of Gypsy and Traveller communities. This represents an integral part of the evidence base upon which Local Plans should be developed in order to be found sound.

Local Planning Policy

- 2.15 The Council's Core Strategy was adopted in 2008 which includes policy CS14 which deals with Gypsies and Travellers. In 2010 the Council produced a Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople DPD Issues and Options report.

Defining Gypsies and Travellers

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

2.17 At the same time, there are separate definitions of Gypsies and Travellers for housing and planning purposes. The statutory definition of Gypsies and Travellers for the purposes of assessing the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers is set out in the Housing Act 2004 as follows:

- (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 dependants' educational or health needs or old age, have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently and*
 - (ii) members of an organised group of Travelling Showpeople or Circus People (whether or not travelling together as such).*

2.18 For planning purposes, the 'Planning Policy for Traveller Sites' (PPTS) contains two definitions, one for Gypsies and Travellers and a separate one for Travelling Showpeople, reflecting the definitions contained in the revoked Circulars 1/2006 and 4/2007. Gypsies and Travellers are defined as:

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

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

2.20 Travelling Showpeople are defined as:

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

2.21 The PPTS uses the term 'Traveller' to refer to both Gypsy and Traveller communities and populations of Travelling Showpeople. This has been used as it is recognised that this definition is '*...more pragmatic and wider and enables Local Planning Authorities to understand the possible future accommodation needs of this group, and plan strategically to meet those needs*'.⁴

⁴ CLG (2011) *Planning for Traveller sites*. Consultation Paper, April, London: HMSO
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/1886164.pdf>

- 2.22 For the purposes of this assessment, the accommodation needs of all sections of the Travelling community that meet the definition set out in the Housing Act 2004, have been assessed to give an overall strategic level of accommodation need.
- 2.23 It should be noted that the focus of this report is UK Gypsies and Travellers and their need for pitch based accommodation on sites. This report does not cover the needs of Roma who have recently arrived from Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). There is no evidence that (CEE) Roma either need or demand accommodation in the form of caravan sites. Roma who live in the UK tend to be accommodated with bricks and mortar housing and therefore the needs relating to these populations should be addressed by their incorporation into an overall housing need study within the borough or by the commissioning of a separate study.

Housing/Accommodation Need

- 2.24 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.”⁵
- 2.25 In recognising that in many cases these definitions are inappropriate for Gypsies and Travellers, the guidance on producing Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments⁶ 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.
 - Who contain suppressed households who are unable to set up separate family units and are unable to access a place on an authorised site, or obtain or afford land to develop one.
- 2.26 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).

⁵ ODPM (2006) *Definition of the term 'Gypsies and Travellers' for the purposes of the Housing Act 2004*. Consultation Paper, February, London: HMSO.

⁶ GTAA guidance has been used in developing the methodology but variations to the approach have been made to take account of local circumstances, where considered appropriate

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

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

Defining a Pitch

- 2.29 There is no set definition for what constitutes a Gypsy and Traveller residential pitch. In the same way as in the settled community, Gypsies and Travellers require various accommodation sizes, depending on the number of family members.
- 2.30 The convention used in this report is that a pitch is the place on a Gypsy and Traveller site accommodating a single family/household. In some cases a single pitch may account for the entire site. The number of caravans that a household uses can be a single unit (trailer, touring caravan, static, chalet etc.) or more. In order to ensure comparability across accommodation types it is important to determine a convention when translating caravan numbers into pitches/households.
- 2.31 The convention in the last round of GTAA's, and an approach advocated by CLG guidance, was the use of a 1.7 caravan to pitch ratio. Taking a more locally informed approach this assessment has indicated that from a base of 77 site-based interviewees a total of 114 caravans are owned/used. This provides a 1.5 caravan to pitch ratio across the sample. Therefore throughout this assessment a 1.5 caravan to pitch ratio is used to determine need to ensure local need is closely reflected.

Conventions

- 2.32 Two conventions are followed in this report:
- Percentages in text and tables are rounded to the nearest whole number; this means that they do not always sum to exactly 100
 - Quotes included from Gypsies and Travellers are sometimes in first and sometimes in third person form because interviews were not audio recorded but noted in written form. They are distinguished by being in italic type and usually inset

Current Local Planning Policy for Ashford

2.33 Ashford are currently working within their 2008 Core Strategy in terms of the current development plan covering the Ashford area. This policy is used to assess planning applications for Gypsy and Traveller sites. Specifically, this is covered in Policy CS14 Gypsies and Travellers Section, which details:

- If required, sites for Gypsies and Travellers (as defined in Circular 01/06) will be identified in a site allocation DPD on the basis of the following criteria:
 - a) It should be based on a clearly identified need that cannot be met on an existing or planned site;
 - b) It should be in accordance with the guiding principles set out in Policy CS1, have regard to impact on the countryside and transport impact in accordance with Policy CS15.

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

- 3.1 This chapter looks at the Count of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans in order to present what is known about Gypsies and Travellers within the Study Area. The Caravan Count is a dataset collected bi-annually for all Local Authorities in England and follows a method prescribed by Central Government. It serves as a baseline for the purposes of this assessment. This chapter also presents information on the estimated size of the Gypsy and Traveller population.

Caravan Numbers and Trends from the Caravan Count

- 3.2 The bi-annual caravan count provides a snapshot of the local context in terms of the scale and distribution of caravan numbers across the District. The Count provides a useful starting point in assessing the current picture and recent trends. Indeed, in the absence of other datasets it is virtually the only source of information on Gypsy and Traveller caravan data. However, there are well documented issues with the robustness of the count.⁸ Such issues include: the ‘snapshot’ nature of the data, the inclusion of caravans and not households, the exclusion of Travelling Showpeople,⁹ and the exclusion of Gypsies and Travellers in housing. It should be noted that the analysis contained in this report should be considered a more robust assessment of the current situation with regards to the local population than the Caravan Count.
- 3.3 Table 3.1 provides the distribution of caravan numbers for Ashford since January 2006. These figures have been adjusted to account for inaccuracies observed in the published data.

Table 3.1 Caravan numbers across accommodation types within Ashford

	Authorised sites with planning permission		Unauthorised sites		Total No. caravans
	Caravans on Socially Rented sites	Caravans on authorised private sites with planning permission	Caravans on unauthorised developments	Caravans on unauthorised encampments	
Jan-12	20	131	11	0	162
Jul-11	23	117	10	0	150
Jan-11	17	108	12	0	137
Jul-10	16	108	8	0	132
Jan-10	16	100	5	0	121
Jul-09	15	90	14	0	119
Jan-09	18	87	9	0	114
Jul-08	15	90	14	0	119
Jan-08	18	87	9	0	114
Jul-07	18	85	5	0	108
Jan-07	21	64	0	0	85
Jul-06	24	84	12	0	120
Jan-06	21	64	8	0	93

⁸ Niner, P. (2002) Review of the ODPM Caravan Count. London: ODPM.

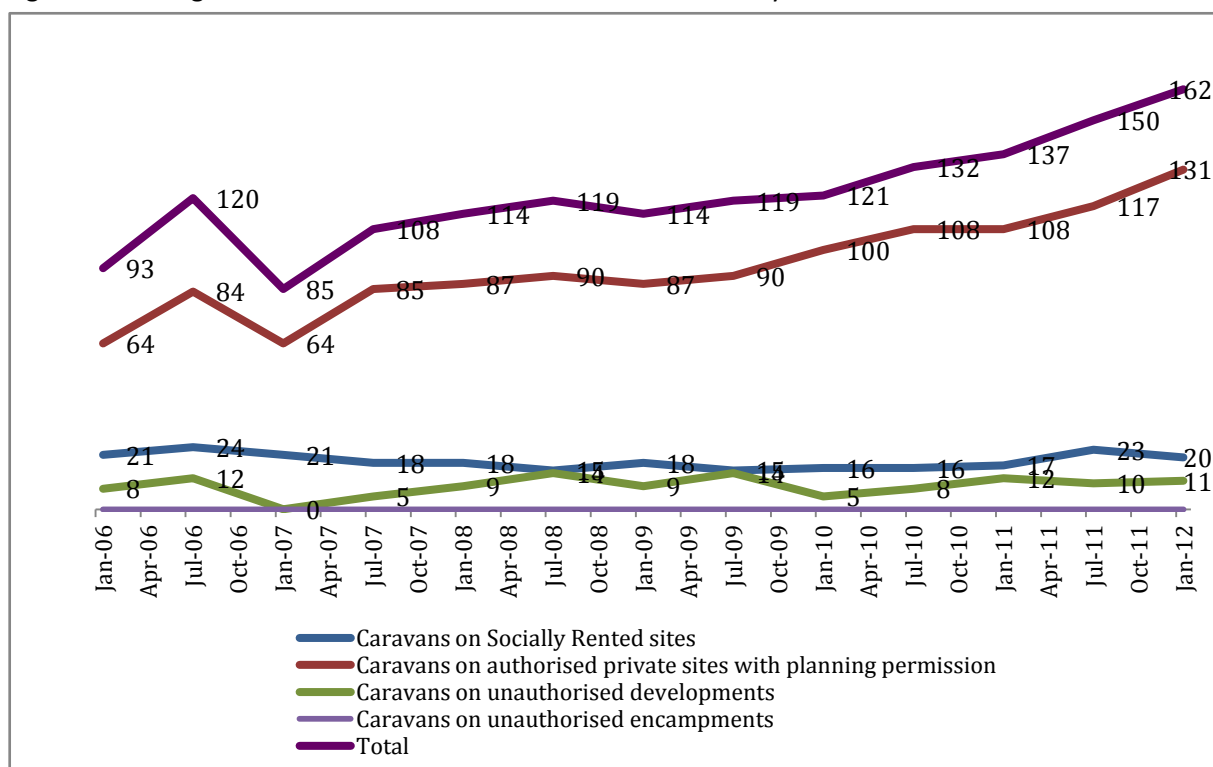
⁹ The January 2011 count included a count of Travelling Showpeople caravans for the first time. However, as this is not comparable with previous years and as no living units have been identified from the Caravan Count this is excluded from the tables in this report.

3.4 Table 3.1 shows the following:

- Overall the number of caravans recorded in the area has slowly risen over the period from 93 in January 2006 to 162 in January 2012. This is a percentage increase of +74% over the six years (an average of 12% each year).
- In the last six years, the number of caravans on socially rented sites has remained stable, with no significant changes over the period. However, there was a drop in numbers between July 2007 and January 2011.
- The most significant increase is demonstrated by those caravans on private sites with planning permission, which has increased by +105% from 64 to 131 from January 2006 to January 2012. This has been seen as a steady increase year on year.
- Generally, caravans on private sites account for the majority of caravans in the borough and have determined the overall trend in caravan numbers over the period. The Local Authority feel that this demand has most likely come from forming households and from some limited inward movement from other boroughs.
- The number of caravans on unauthorised developments (land owned by Gypsies and Travellers but where planning permission has not been granted) has also steadily increased over the period, with an overall increase of +38% from January 2006 to January 2012, although the number in real terms remains at quite a low level. These caravan numbers have fluctuated with a generally greater number of caravans recorded in July of most years and fewer caravans presenting in January. However, this is less true for the period January 2011 to January 2012 where the numbers have remained high throughout the year
- The number of caravans recorded on unauthorised encampments have been zero in all Counts (at the July 2012 count 12 were recorded on one site at Park Farm Ashford).

3.5 The following figure illustrates the trends in caravan numbers recorded in the count and described above. There appears to be little evidence of seasonality in Ashford with low numbers of caravans from unauthorised developments. However, of those developments, the peaks have tended to be in the summer months. Overall, in terms of the caravan count, Ashford appears to be a fairly static and stable Gypsy and Traveller community.

Figure 3.1 Change in caravan numbers from June 2006 to January 2012



The size of the local Gypsy and Traveller Community

- 3.6 For most minority ethnic communities, presenting data about the size of the community in question is usually relatively straightforward (with the exception of communities who have large numbers of irregular migrants and migrant workers etc. amongst them). However, for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, one of the most difficult issues is providing accurate information on the size of the population. As a result, we have used information provided by the local authorities and key stakeholders, together with our survey findings, in order to provide a best estimate as to the size of the local Gypsy and Traveller population at the time of the assessment.
- 3.7 The recently released data from the 2011 Census indicate that there were a total of 531 residents in Ashford who self-described their ethnicity as 'Gypsy or Traveller'. This provides some initial indication as to the size of the population but should be seen as an approximation and an indication of the minimum size of the population as opposed to an accurate count.
- 3.8 Table 3.2 presents the estimation of the size of the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population. Using the best information available we estimate that there are at least 675 individuals or 187 households in the Study Area.

Table 3.2: Gypsy and Traveller population based in the area

Type of accommodation	Families/ Households (based on 1 pitch = 1 household)	Individuals	Derivation
Socially rented sites	14	30	Actual numbers taken from information supplied by Ashford Council
Private sites (permanent)	108	389	Estimated number of pitches multiplied by average household size from the survey (3.6)
Private sites (temporary)	8	29	Estimated number of pitches multiplied by average household size obtained from permanent private sites (3.6)
Unauthorised developments	4	18	Estimated number of pitches multiplied by average household size from the survey (4.5)
Housing	**49 ¹⁰	196	Number of families estimated to live in the area multiplied by average household size from the survey (4)
Travelling Showpeople	4	13	Number of plots multiplied by an estimate of the household size for Travelling Showperson (3.3)
Total	187	675	

- 3.9 A certain degree of caution needs to be taken when extrapolating the characteristics, trends and needs of the Gypsy and Traveller population from the Caravan Counts and other such data alone. For example, for the Census it should be noted that many Gypsies and Travellers may have ticked other ethnic categories, for a variety of reasons, and it is not clear whether full engagement with the communities was undertaken (e.g. due to literacy issues or nomadism at the time). Our estimation of the size of the population – grounded in our empirical work - indicates that for Ashford the Census under-counts the size of the population by around 140 people.
- 3.10 In order to provide more specific information on the local Gypsy and Traveller population, the remaining chapters draw upon the information provided by Ashford Borough Council on site provision in the study area, as well as information obtained through a survey of Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople households.

¹⁰ We did not receive any information regarding the accurate size of the Gypsy and Traveller bricks and mortar-based population. It is generally agreed that there are now more Gypsies and Travellers living in conventional housing in the UK than living on sites or unauthorised encampments. The Commission for Racial Equality's 2006 report *Common Ground: Equality, good race relations and sites for Gypsies and Irish Travellers* suggested that the housed population could be around 3 times the trailer-based population. Using a multiplier of 3 times the site population may be excessive in the absence of definitive evidence of the size of the population. Therefore, as a conservative estimate and based on fieldwork experience, we assume we have interviewed 75% of the actual bricks and mortar-based population.

4. Authorised social and private sites

Socially rented site – Chilmington Gypsy Site

- 4.1 There is one socially rented site in Ashford providing residential accommodation on 16 pitches, of which 14 are currently occupied. The total population across these sites is shown in Table 3.2 above. The Council indicated that no sites have been closed but a successful bid to the Gypsy and Traveller Sites Grant resulted in the refurbishment of the utility blocks and hard-standings.
- 4.2 This site currently has a total of sixteen residential pitches. At the time of this study 14 were occupied.
- 4.3 Ashford Borough Council indicated that the number or nature of pitches on the site had not changed over the past five years and no pitches had been vacated or let in the last four years – with the exception of two vacant pitches at the time of this assessment.
- 4.4 The site is managed in-house by Ashford Borough Council and there have been no changes in management since 2006.
- 4.5 Licensees are permitted to be absent for travelling subject to the conditions of housing benefit payments and must pay full rent while absent. Visitors are permitted on the site
- 4.6 There are currently two applicants on the waiting list and the Council indicated that this number has remained static over the last three years. There is currently a formal policy for allocating socially rented pitches, which takes the form of a reference in the lettings policy for social housing to the site and states that applications will be dealt with in date order. Within this, the following are taken into consideration:
- Family size/composition
 - Need for accommodation
 - Medical/special health needs
 - Ability to pay
 - Family or personal compatibility
 - Previous known behaviour/references
 - Previous rent arrears
 - Time on the waiting list

Of these aspects, the priorities for allocation are:

- **Main priority:** Time on waiting list
 - **Second priority:** Previous known behaviour/references
 - **Third priority:** Need for accommodation
- 4.7 The weekly rent is £41.93 for both single and double pitches. Additionally, there is a weekly service charge payable of £17.41. However, these amounts are currently under review. No damage deposit is required at the start of a licence.

- 4.8 Information from the Council indicates that there are currently 30 people living on the site: 20 adults; two children under five, six children aged five to 11; and two children aged 12 to 16. In terms of ethnic groups, the residents were reported to be English Gypsy or Traveller. The Council reported 75% to 100% occupancy for most of the year during 2011. Most residents (i.e. 60% – 90%) have lived on the site long term (five years or over). Each pitch has an amenity unit, which consists of a shower, a toilet, which is accessed via the inside of the utility space, and space/provision for cooking and laundry facilities. The amenity units have effective heating and some residents use them for space for eating and sitting during the day. There are currently 16 trailers/tourers on the site.
- 4.9 There was mixed feedback from Ashford Borough Council's Housing Department with regards to the quality of the council site, with general surroundings and environment described as 'Good', the site's access to schools and shops described as 'Very Good', and the physical condition and maintenance of the site described as 'Average'.
- 4.10 Information from the Council indicated that there have been some problems on the site over the last 12 months including disputes between residents, intimidation, vandalism and other anti-social behaviour.
- 4.11 Ashford Council's Customer Homes and Property Department indicated that there is one household currently doubled up on the site.

Table 4.1: Overview of the socially rented site

Total number of pitches	16
Number of occupied pitches	14
Site population	30
Number of children	10
% children	33%
Average persons per occupied pitch	2
Doubled-up pitches	1
Ethnic groups among site residents	English Gypsies and Travellers
Pitch occupancy in year	75% - 100%
% of site residents lived on site 5+ years	90% or more
Weekly rent	£41.93
Management	Ashford Borough Council

Socially Rented Sites: Survey Findings

- 4.12 A total of 14 respondents were interviewed at the council run site and all reported themselves to be Romany Gypsy. Households were most likely to have three family members, with three households (21%) having members aged over 60, two households (22%) having children 0-5, six households (67%) having children aged 6-10 and four households (44%) having children aged 11-16.

Views on Size and Facilities

- 4.13 13 respondents (93%) owned their caravan(s), with six respondents (43%) having one caravan and eight respondents (57%) having two caravans. The average number of caravans to households was 1.6. 12 respondents (86%) reported that they had enough space. Of the remaining two respondents, one would like more caravans and one would like a bigger caravan.

Previous Accommodation Experiences

- 4.14 When asked why they had come to live on their current site, people gave a variety of reasons (see Table 4.2 below). However, the most common reason was to be near family – eight respondents (57%).

Table 4.2. Main reason for moving to the site

Reason	Number	Percentage
To be near family	8	57%
There was a vacancy	2	14%
Moved with family	1	7%
Health	1	7%
Lack of sites	1	7%
Work available	1	7%

- 4.15 When asked what type of accommodation they had immediately before their current site, six respondents (43%) indicated that they had lived on unauthorised encampments in and around Ashford and the wider Kent area, four (29%) had lived on their current site all their adult life, three (21%) on a private site with planning permission, and one (7%) on a private site with temporary planning permission. Other more specific places named include:

- Tonbridge
- Tunbridge Wells
- Yalding
- Maidstone
- High Halden - Ashford
- Woodchurch - Ashford

Of the ten who had previously lived elsewhere, the majority of respondents (three respondents/30%) indicated that they had left their previous accommodation because a vacancy had become available on the Council run site at Chilmington. One respondent moved for their children's education, one moved due to overcrowded conditions, one moved due to getting married, one moved due to '*always being moved on*' and one moved because they '*didn't get on with the people on the site*'.

Accommodating Visitors on their Current Site

- 4.16 Only four respondents reported having visitors to stay on their pitch with them (29%), with one respondent (25%) stating that their visitors stayed in their trailer with

them and three (75%) stating that their visitors brought their own trailer and stayed on their pitch. In terms of who comes to stay, in all cases it is seasonal visits from close family each year. Hosting visitors is a problem for three respondents (21%) and this is due to the pitches reportedly not being big enough to accommodate visitors.

Length of Time in the Area and on the Site

- 4.17 13 respondents (93%) had lived in the area for ten years or more, with the remaining one respondent living in the area for five to ten years. Those living on the council run site have two main reasons for staying in the area; being born there (eight respondents/57%) and having close family in the area (five respondents/36%). See Table 4.3 below for a full breakdown of reasons for staying in Ashford:

Table 4.3: Main reason for living in Ashford

Reason	Number	Percentage
Born/raised here	8	57%
Close family in the area	5	36%
Children's education	1	7%

- 4.18 With regards to length of time on their current site, 12 respondents (86%) lived there for ten years or more, while one respondent (7%) had lived there for between five and ten years and one respondent (7%) had lived there between three and five years. The two respondents who had lived on the site less than ten years had previously lived in a variety places such as Hastings, Yalding, Maidstone and Doncaster on private and unauthorised sites. One had also previously lived in a house.
- 4.19 No respondent reported having a base elsewhere.

Travelling Experiences

- 4.20 Seven respondents (50%) indicated that they never travelled, and hadn't done so for quite some time. The reasons given for not travelling were indicated as:

- Education reasons (two people/29%)
- Old Age reasons (two people/29%)

Other individual reasons were provided:

"In a chalet so we drive over to relations when we want a break"

"Separated from husband"

- 4.21 Of the seven who do travel; two respondents (29%) stated that they travel once a year and five respondents (71%) said they travelled a few times per year. Most indicated that they tended to visit the fairs (for example, Appleby, Cambridge, Stow and Star Pane). Two respondents also made reference to seaside resorts in the South of England, for example, Bournemouth and Devon. A number of other unrelated places were mentioned such as Doncaster, Lincolnshire and Northampton. Four respondents travelled with just one caravan (80%), one respondent with two

caravans (20%) and two respondents didn't respond to this question. Additionally, one respondent stated that they also travelled with one piece of equipment.

- 4.22 All respondents who indicated that they travelled had done so in the last 12 months; four of the five respondents who supplied responses about where they travelled had travelled to attend a fair (80%), one had travelled for a holiday, two (20%) had travelled to visit relatives and one had travelled to find work. The most important reason for travelling, as stated by three respondents (60%) was to visit the fairs. With regards to where people stayed while travelling, those who attended the fairs stayed at designated fair sites. Following fair sites, a small number of respondents made reference to staying with family on their private site (two) and with family on a council site (one).

Experiences of living in Bricks and Mortar Accommodation

- 4.23 Only one respondent interviewed on the site indicated that they had lived in a house at some point during their life and this was in a council rented house in Paddock Wood. The respondent had moved there due to being evicted from previous accommodation and described their experience there as 'Poor', choosing to move from there because they *'just didn't like the house'*.

Work

- 4.24 Of the 20 adults on the council run site, respondents reported the following in terms of the employment status of family members:

- 12 (60%) in self-employment
- Two (10%) in employment
- Eight (40%) full time homemakers
- One (2%) unemployed and not looking for work
- One (2%) unemployed and looking for work
- One (2%) retired

Of the 14 family members either self-employed or employed, seven (50%) mostly worked in Ashford, three (21%) mostly work in Maidstone, one mostly works in Sevenoaks and one mostly works in London. One respondent did not indicate where they mostly work. One respondent indicated that they needed more space to accommodate the lorries they use for work. Only one respondent cited that they previously had trouble accessing work, but provided little insight as to what these problems were.

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

Authorised Private Sites

- 4.26 This section looks at private sites across the Study Area. There are 39 small authorised private sites with permanent planning permission and four authorised private sites with temporary planning permission in the district. There is a further one authorised site for Travelling Showpeople (which is addressed in chapter 10). It proved difficult to accurately establish the pitch capacity of all private sites. Planning permissions are often based on a maximum number of caravans rather than clearly defined pitches. Where pitch numbers are not defined, we have used a 1.4 caravan to pitch ratio (as calculated from the survey of those living on authorised private sites) to ascertain the approximate number of pitches.¹¹ Table 4.4 details the private authorised sites by planning permission type. The estimated number of pitches supplied by these sites is 110.

Table 4.4. Private sites in the district

Consent	No. of sites	Estimated No. of pitches
Permanent	39	108
Temporary	4	8
Total	43	116

- 4.27 The council report that they have granted over 20 permanent and temporary planning applications on sites in the last six years.

Private Site Residents: Findings from those with Permanent Planning Permission

- 4.28 A total of 56 people were interviewed from private sites with permanent planning permission. Households had an average of 3.6 family members. 49 respondents (88%) described themselves as Romany Gypsy and seven (12%) as Irish Travellers.
- 4.29 49 respondents (88%) own their own plot, one respondent rents their plot and for the remaining six respondents (11%), the plot is owned by a family member. 53 respondents report that they own their own trailer and three respondents didn't answer this question.

Views on Size and Facilities

- 4.30 Over half (34/61%) reported having a single living unit, with 22 respondents (39%) reporting having two living units. The average number was 1.4 caravans per household. 54 respondents (96%) interviewed reported that their current

¹¹ As described earlier a ratio of 1.7 is commonly used in GTAA research however, the caravan to pitch ratio based on the sample for the assessment across all private sites (permanent and temporary) was 1.4

accommodation provided them with enough living space. The one respondent who was able to give further information about why they don't have enough space felt that they need more bedrooms.

Previous Accommodation Experiences

- 4.31 When asked why they had come to live on their current site, people gave a variety of reasons (see Table 4.5 below). However, the most common reason was to be near family (29%). A number of respondents had moved there due to there being land available to buy (12/22%):

"Bought this place years ago because it was a heap"

"They bought this place because they got sick of being moved on all the time"

"Harassment in the house"

Table 4.5. Main reason for moving to the site

Reason	Number	Percentage
To be near family	28	50%
Land available to buy	12	21%
Moved there with family	5	9%
Born there	5	9%
Health reasons	2	4%
Lack of sites	2	4%
Harassed when living in a house	1	2%
Nowhere else to go	1	2%

- 4.32 When asked what type of accommodation they had immediately before their current site, 23 respondents (42%) indicated that they had been on the site all their adult life, 11 respondents (20%) lived on another private site with permanent planning permission, nine respondents (16%) lived on an unauthorised encampment, one on an unauthorised development, three (6%) socially rented a house, three (6%) owned a house, two (4%) lived on a council run site, two (4%) lived on a transit site, and one lived on a private site with temporary planning permission. In terms of location of previous accommodation, a number of places were named:

- Ashford
- Kent
- Barnet
- Blackpool
- Braintree
- Cambridge
- Canterbury
- Crowborough – East Sussex
- Harlow
- Hartford - Cheshire
- Isle of Sheppey
- London
- Norfolk
- Nottingham
- Ramsgate
- Shrewsbury
- St Neots
- Staines
- Woolwich

- 4.33 The 32 respondents who had lived elsewhere previous to coming to their current site provided a variety of reasons for leaving their previous accommodation, detailed in table 4.6 below. The main reasons for leaving previous accommodation was to move closer to family (18%) and because land was available to buy elsewhere (18%).

Table 4.6. Main reason for leaving previous accommodation

Reason	Number	Percentage
To be near family/friends	6	18%
Land available to buy	6	18%
Evicted	5	15%
Overcrowded	3	9%
Harassment	2	6%
Got married	2	6%
No reason	2	6%
Sold land	2	6%
Separation/divorce	2	6%
To travel	1	3%
Health	1	3%

Accommodating Visitors on their Current Site

- 4.34 13 respondents (23%) reported hosting visitors in terms of family and close friends, who tend to stay for 2-4 weeks at a time. 11 respondents (73%) have visitors who bring their own trailer, one visitor stays in the respondent's trailer and one visitor brings their own trailer and stays elsewhere. For 54 respondents (98%), hosting visitors is not a problem. For the two respondents for whom hosting visitors is cited as a problem, lack of space is not identified as the reason for this.

Length of time in the Area and on the Site

- 4.35 52 respondents (95%) reported living in the area (i.e. Ashford district) for ten years or over, while two respondents (4%) have lived in the area for five to ten years and one (2%) for just one to six months. Generally, respondents appear to have lived on their current site for less time than they have lived in Ashford per se, with 38 (68%) living there for ten years or more, nine (16%) for five to ten years, four (7%) for three to five years, three (5%) for one to three years, one (2%) for six to 12 months and one (2%) for three to six months.
- 4.36 When asked why they chose to live in the Ashford area, respondents cited a variety of reasons, see Table 4.7 below. The most common reasons however were having close family (96%) and extended family (66%) in the area or being born or raised there (64%). When asked what the one most important reason is for staying in the area, 25 respondents (48%) said it was because they born here, 24 respondents (46%) said it was because they have close family here, one because of having extended family in the area, one for health reasons, and one for their children's education.

Table 4.7: Reasons for living in the area

Reason for living in the area	Number of respondents	Percentage
Have close family in the area	54	96%
Have extended family in the area	37	66%
Born/raised here	36	64%
Work available in the area	28	50%
For the children's education	27	48%
Due to health reasons	11	20%
To look after family	5	9%
Lack of sites	2	4%

Respondents were able to provide multiple responses

- 4.37 29 respondents (52%) reported never leaving the area throughout the year, with 17 respondents (30%) stating that they lived in the area between 41-51 weeks of the year, five respondents (9%) staying there for 31-40 weeks per year and four (7%) for 21-30 weeks per year. In terms of where respondents travel to, the vast majority travel in the spring and summer to all the fairs, many also travel to seaside resorts in the summer months. Additionally, many respondents also visit family and friends all around the country.
- 4.38 Five respondents (9%) have a base elsewhere. Of the three who were able to give further information about this base, one reported it to be in Luton, one in Maidstone and one in Tenterden. All five reported what type of accommodation this base is; two have another private site with planning permission, one has an unauthorised development, one socially rents a bricks and mortar property and one owns a bricks and mortar property. Two respondents visit this base every now and again, one uses it as a winter base, one uses it for part of the year, and one doesn't use it at all.

Travelling Experiences

- 4.39 Half (28 respondents) indicated that they never travelled, and hadn't done so for at least two years. On many occasions, respondents report not travelling due to having too many animals to look after, while others simply feel settled and have no need to move. Others do not travel due to work commitments.

"Got animals that need looking after"

"Just work hard. No time to move"

"We don't move at the minute as my husband works away a lot"

With 21 respondents not travelling due to:

- Education reasons (12 people/43%)
- Because of old age (six people/21%)
- Health reasons (three people/11%)

- 4.40 Half (28 respondents) do still travel. Four respondents (7%) travel once a year, 19 (34%) travel a few times per year, four (7%) travel every month and two (4%) travel once a week. 11 respondents (58%) travel with one caravan, two travel with two caravans, three travel with three caravans, two travel with four caravans, and one with five caravans. Three respondents (18%) travel with one piece of equipment. Ten (39%) travel for work, five (19%) for holidays, 19 (73%) for the fairs, 15 (58%) to visit family, three (12%) for family events, and two (8%) for community events. Overall, the most important reasons for travelling is to go to the fairs (9/35%) and to visit relatives (8/31%). 26 respondents (47%) have travelled in the last 12 months.

Experiences of living in Bricks and Mortar Accommodation

- 4.41 Seven respondents (22%) interviewed indicated that they had lived in bricks and mortar accommodation at some point during their life. Two respondents (29%) lived in a council rented property, one (14%) in a housing association property and four (57%) owned their own property. Each respondent gave a different reason for moving into a bricks and mortar property and these are: moved there with family, for health reasons, to be near family/friends, for work, house available to buy, moved with a partner who has always lived in houses, inherited house and moved there with husband. When asked to rate their experience of living in a house, two respondents (29%) said it was 'good', two respondents (29%) were ambivalent, two respondents (29%) said it was 'poor' and one (14%) said it was 'very poor'. When asked why they left bricks and mortar accommodation, for two respondents (29%) it was due to getting married, for two (29%) it was due to harassment, one found land available to buy, one separated from their partner and one still has the property and uses it as a base at different times in the year.

Work

- 4.42 Respondents reported the following in terms of the employment status of family members on private sites:

- 69 in self-employment
- Three in employment
- 32 full time homemaker
- Eight retired
- Three unemployed and not looking for work

Of the 72 family members either self-employed or employed, 28 mostly work in Ashford (57%), eight mostly work in Sevenoaks (16%), seven mostly work in Maidstone (14%), four mostly work in Canterbury (8%), a number of respondents work all over Kent and a number work throughout the UK. No respondents indicated that they needed any space on their site for work related reasons. Two respondents cited that they had trouble accessing work due to negative views of Gypsies and Travellers among other local community members.

"Sometimes when he goes to price a job and when they think you're a Traveller or Gypsy they say we will ring you back but they never do"

Health Services and Issues

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

Private Sites with Temporary Planning Permission

- 4.44 There are currently four sites with temporary planning permission in Ashford, with a total of eight pitches.

Private Sites with Temporary Planning Permission: Survey Findings

- 4.45 The research team conducted one interview with a member of one of the private sites with temporary planning permission. Due to the small number of interviews secured, it is impractical to present the survey responses as percentages. The following summarises the key issues emerging from this interview:
- The respondent stated that they owned their plot and had planning permission for it.
 - It was reported that there was enough space for trailers and equipment and that accommodating visitors was not a problem.
 - The respondent stated that they lived there to be near family.
 - The respondent was born in Ashford, has lived on the site all their life and has close family there.
 - The respondent never travels, and hasn't done so for four years and this is because they have too many animals to look after.
 - The respondent reports the household has two members in employment in the Ashford area and one fulltime homemaker.
 - No needs or problems in terms of accessing work was reported.
 - Adequate access to health services, where applicable was reported.
 - The respondent has no plans to move.

5. Planning and Unauthorised Developments

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

Current Policy

5.2 The Council indicated that the current development plan for Ashford takes the form of the Core Strategy 2008. This strategy details the terms under which a Gypsy and Traveller site would be assessed.

Planning Applications

Table 5.1: Planning applications for private sites since 2006

Year	Broad location of application	Number of Pitches Applied for	Outcome
2006	Pinnock Paddock, Pluckley	1 pitch	Granted
2007	Brockton Farm Paddock, Vicarage Lane, Charing Heath, TN27	1 pitch	Temporary permission granted on appeal
2007	The Glen, Shadoxhurst, TN26 1LZ	1 pitch	Granted
2007	Meadow View, High Halden, TN26 3BY	1 additional pitch	Granted (see additional pitch below)
2008 (and below)	Cob Tree Meadow, Brook Street, Woodchurch, TN26 3SZ	1 pitch	Refused and dismissed on appeal. Enforcement appeal upheld but period for compliance extended to 11.09.11.
2008	Meadow View, High Halden	1 additional pitch	Granted
2008	Rose Garden Paddock, Biddenden	1 pitch	Granted on appeal
2008	The Meadows, Sandy Lane, Great Chart, TN26 1JN	1 pitch	Granted on appeal, (committee recommendation to refuse)
2009	Priory Wood, Biddenden (re named Silver Birches)	1 pitch	Granted
2009	Never Done Drive, (now known as Miller Farm), Luckhurst Lane, Smarden, TN27 8QW	1 pitch	At the time of the GTAA fieldwork: 3 years temporary granted on appeal (also new appeal 02/10/2012) As of 28/01/13: Now Granted permanent permission on appeal see below

2009	Herwish, Martens Lane, High Halden	2 pitches (3 caravans)	4 years temporary allowed at appeal
2009	Sylvilla, Canterbury Road, Chilham, CT4 8AG	2 additional pitches	Granted
2010	Land N.E. of Twyden Cottage, Daniels Water, Great Chart	4 pitches	Refused
2010	Hanover Lodge, Bethersden	1 pitch	Dismissed and compliance with enforcement changed to 2 years
2010	Pilreed Cottage, Plurenden Road, High Halden, TN26 3JN	4 additional mobiles (pitches)	Granted
2010	The Dales, Nickley Wood Road, Shadoxhurst, TN26 1LZ, (Mr A. Esposito)	2 additional pitches	Granted
2011	NE of Brickhouse Farm, High Halden (re- named Planesfield)	1 pitch	3 years temporary granted on appeal
2011	Land adjacent to Milee, Nickley Wood Road, Shadoxhurst	1 pitch	Refused
2011	Lees Paddock, High Halden, TN26 3HJ	1 additional pitch	Granted
2011	Pilreed Wood, Plurenden Road, High Halden, TN26 3JN	3 additional pitches	Granted
2011	Milee, Nickley Wood Road, Shadoxhurst, TN26 1LZ	2 additional pitches	Granted
2011	Woodside, Brisley Lane, Bilsington	2 pitches	Granted
2012	Three Chimney Stud, Hareplain Road, Biddenden, TN27 8LW	1 pitch	Granted on appeal
2012	Riverfield Farm, Etchden Road, Bethersden	1 pitch	Refused, appeal dismissed
2012	Chequer Tree Paddock, Colliers Hill, Mersham	1 pitch	Refused, appeal dismissed
2011	Land south east of Malden Lodge, Stone Cross Road, Bilsington	2 pitches	Temporary permission granted until March 2015
2012	Land known as Woodside, Brisley Lane, Bilsington	1 additional pitch	Refused (committee decision contrary to PO report)
2012	Cob Tree Meadow, Brook Street, Woodchurch, TN26 3SZ	1 pitch	Refused, appeal pending
2012	Hillcrest, Church Lane, Shadoxhurst	2 pitches	Refused, section 78 appeal dismissed, enforcement notice (recreational use) quashed appeal allowed
2011	Brockton Farm Paddock, Vicarage Lane, Charing Heath	Renewal of 06/00015/AS for 3 pitches	Temporary permission granted on appeal 'til 12/11/2014
2012	Land north west of The Glen and opposite Ravensbourne, Nickley Wood Road, Shadoxhurst	1 pitch	Granted
2012	Land South East of Hookstead, Steeds Lane, Kingsnorth	1 pitch 12/00676/AS	No decision (04.10.2012) unauthorised

			Refused Appeal submitted
2012	Miller Farm, (formerly Never Done Drive), Luckhurst Lane, Smarden, TN27 8QW	1 pitch	As at the time of GTAA fieldwork: Refused, awaiting appeal decision As of 28.01.13: Appeal allowed
2012	Pinnock Paddock, Pluckley, TN27 0SS	Increase to 6 caravans	Refused

5.3 A number of planning applications have been refused in Ashford since 2006, and the main reasons for this are:

- Would have a detrimental effect on open countryside, its character and appearance.
- Poor access to community and social facilities and public transport.
- Insufficient evidence of how the applicant falls within the definition of Gypsies and Travellers.

Enforcements

5.4 Since 2006, there have been enforcement notices issued to three of the unauthorised developments in the district.

Unauthorised Development of Gypsy and Traveller Sites

5.5 The Council indicates that there have been 15 unauthorised developments in the district since 2006 and there are currently four in situ. All four sites are small developments with just one pitch and are located on private land. Table 5.3 provides details of unauthorised sites in Ashford. Where we only have information on the number of caravans – opposed to number of pitches – the 1.5 caravans to pitches ratio is applied to estimate the number of pitches.

Table 5.3. Unauthorised developments

Site type	Estimated No. of caravans	Estimated No. of pitches
Cob Tree Meadow	1 at the time of the GTAA fieldwork (since vacated)	1 pitch
Never Done Drive (Millers Farm)	1 at the time of the GTAA fieldwork (since granted permission)	1
Riverfield Farm	3	1
Jobens Farm	1	1
Total (est)	4	4

5.6 Ashford Council predicts that it is likely that the number of unauthorised sites will increase in the next five years.

Unauthorised Developments: Survey Findings

5.7 The research team conducted two interviews with members of unauthorised developments. The research team were unable to secure interviews with the other two unauthorised developments in the area. Due to the small number of interviews secured, it is impractical to present the survey responses as percentages. The following summarises the key issues emerging from the interviews:

- Both respondents stated that they owned or rented their own plot and owned their own trailer.
- One respondent had one caravan and one respondent had three caravans.
- Both reported that they had enough space for trailers and equipment. One respondent reported that they host visitors and that accommodating them was not a problem. This respondent did not elaborate further and the other respondent didn't respond to this question at all.
- One respondent had been born in the area and both respondents had family living in the area. The main reason for staying on the site and in the area was because of having close family there. One respondent also stated that they stay in the area for health reasons and for their children's education.
- Both respondents report that they have lived in the area for ten years or more, with one also reporting to have lived on their current site for ten or more years and one for five to ten years. The respondent who had lived in Ashford the least amount of time reported that they previously lived on a private site in High Halden in Kent.
- The one respondent who had previously lived on a private site in High Halden left that site due to overcrowded conditions
- Both cited that they lived on the site 31 to 51 weeks per year and just travelled to the fairs.
- Both have travelled in the last 12 months, travel at least a few times a year and mainly go to Appleby, Stow and Cambridge fairs. One also travels for work and to visit relatives. When travelling, those living on unauthorised developments are most likely to stay on a country roadside, on a private site or a designated site for fairs.
- From the two interviews carried out, six people reportedly are self-employed and one person is a homemaker. In terms of where people are likely to work, Ashford and Maidstone were detailed, with one respondent adding that they tended to work all over the country.
- Both report having no needs or problems in terms of accessing work.
- Both report having adequate access to health services, where applicable.
- Neither respondent interviewed reported any plans to move.

Unauthorised Encampments

- 5.8 The presence and incidence of unauthorised encampments is often a significant issue that impacts upon local authorities, landowners, Gypsies and Travellers and the settled population. Due to the nature of unauthorised encampments (i.e. unpredictability, seasonal fluctuations, etc.), it is often very difficult to grasp a comprehensive picture of need for residential and/or transit accommodation without considering a range of interconnected issues. As discussed in Chapter 3, very few encampments have been recorded in the Caravan Count over the last five years. Additionally, there were no unauthorised encampments in Ashford during the study period and therefore the interviewers were unable to interview any respondents from unauthorised encampments as part of this study.
- 5.9 The Council indicated that they do not have a written policy for managing unauthorised encampments but they do have joint agreements of protocols with the police, other local authorities and other agencies. It was indicated that an officer from the Council and the police would normally be the first people to contact Gypsies and Travellers on unauthorised encampments.
- 5.10 The Council report that there were no encampments recorded in 2009. However, there was one encampment in 2010, two in 2011 and one in 2012. 5.12 Based on the last five years, the Council felt it unlikely to have any increase in the number of caravans on unauthorised encampments in the area year to year. However, it was indicated that if an encampment were to appear, it would be most likely to be travellers in transit through the area. Unauthorised encampment numbers is predicted to stay broadly the same over the next five years, as it has over the last five years.
- 5.11 Kent County Council report that, to their knowledge, KCC has not dealt with any unauthorised encampments in Ashford for quite a while and furthermore, Kent County Council would only deal with unauthorised encampments if they were to park on land owned by Kent County Council or on highways land in Kent. The following comment was provided by a key officer at the Gypsy and Traveller Unit at Kent County Council:

“There are not any encampments which I am aware of which are still in Kent, or moving around in Kent. The individual Local Authorities deal with the encampments, which are parked on their own land. We won't necessarily get any calls or have any information regarding encampments which are not on our land, the councils will deal with these themselves”

Unauthorised Encampments: Survey Findings

- 5.12 At the time of this study, there were no unauthorised encampments in the Ashford area and therefore it has not been possible to include any survey findings from these community members in the report.

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

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

Estimating the Size of Gypsy and Traveller Population in Bricks and Mortar Housing

- 6.2 None of the stakeholders that were consulted nor members of the local Gypsy and Traveller communities in Ashford were able to accurately estimate the size of the Gypsy and Traveller population in bricks and mortar accommodation.
- 6.3 The Commission for Racial Equality's 2006 report, *Common Ground: Equality, good race relations and sites for Gypsies and Irish Travellers*, suggested that the housed population was around three times the number of trailer-based populations. However, using a multiplier of three times the site population, may be excessive in the absence of definitive evidence of the size of the population. Consequently, a number of other sources are pursued in order to provide some indication as to the size of the population in bricks and mortar accommodation.
- 6.4 Ashford Borough Council indicated the following:
- Gypsies and Travellers are specifically referred to in their current housing and homelessness strategies.
 - The Council cannot provide an indication of the possible total population of Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar accommodation of any kind.
 - There is no BME housing strategy and therefore Gypsies and Travellers are not included.
 - There are currently three applicants who describe themselves as being a 'Gypsy or Traveller' registered for social housing.
 - There was one household re-housed who ascribed as being a 'Gypsy or Traveller' during 2011.
 - No homelessness applications from a household who was ascribed as being a 'Gypsy or Traveller' were received in the last 12 months.
 - Drawing upon their experience, the Council believes the three main reasons for Gypsy and Traveller community members moving into bricks and mortar accommodation to be health reasons, a desire to settle and a desire to be near friends and family.
 - Gypsies and Travellers are thought to live in concentrations of social housing, with a particular concentration in Hothfield. However, apart from this concentration, families are thought to be evenly spread across the borough.

- The Council report that Gypsy and Traveller community members are most likely to approach the council for housing advice, to apply for social housing and to apply for housing benefit.
- The Council do not know whether the number of Gypsies and Travellers moving into social housing had changed over the last five years.
- The Council do not know whether the number of Gypsies and Travellers moving into social housing would change over the next five years.
- There is no information on Gypsies and Travellers living in private housing in Ashford in terms of numbers, concentrations and areas.
- The last GTAA carried out for West Kent in 2006 interviewed 29 respondents living in housing and found that the majority had lived in socially rented accommodation for a number of years. Generally, respondents had positive perceptions of their accommodation.

6.5 In order to engage with households in bricks and mortar accommodation, the Community Interviewers deployed three main strategies:

- They utilised their own extensive social networks in order to find people who lived in houses.
- They asked respondents from trailer-based accommodation to pass on the details of people living in houses who would be agreeable to be interviewed.
- They utilised snowball sampling techniques (asking respondents from housing to recommend other similar households to engage with).

6.6 Engaging with households in bricks and mortar accommodation appeared unproblematic. However, the interviewers felt that very few additional interviews, to those completed, could have been achieved. This leads us to assume that the households we interviewed constitute a large proportion of the entire population in bricks and mortar housing. Therefore, as a pragmatic working assumption, which allows for a reasonable consideration of need arising from households in bricks and mortar, we assume we have interviewed 75% of the actual bricks and mortar-based population. Therefore, by grossing up the number of interviews attained by this percentage, we estimate that there are 49 households living in bricks and mortar in Ashford.

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

- The data from the Census 2011 is available to cross tabulate ethnicity by accommodation type (see Section 3 for Census issues).
- Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople feel able to disclose their ethnic group in monitoring forms.

- Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople feel able to disclose their ethnic group to the wider community.

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

Living in Bricks and Mortar Accommodation: Survey Findings

6.9 A total of 37 people were interviewed in bricks and mortar accommodation; 26 (70%) were living in socially rented accommodation, four (11%) in private rented accommodation, and seven (19%) owned their house. 18 respondents (49%) indicated that they owned one caravan. Households were most likely to have four family members, with three households (8%) having members aged over 60, one household (3%) having children 0-5, 16 households (43%) having children aged 6-10 and 24 households (65%) having children aged 11-16. All of the respondents described their ethnicity as Romany Gypsy.

Views on Size of Property

6.10 Respondents tended to live in two (10 respondents/27%) or three (27 respondents/73%) bedroom properties, with three bedrooms being the average. Six respondents (16%) reported that they did not have enough space in their current home; and these respondents lived in socially and privately rented properties. Four respondents reported needing a larger house (11%) one respondent - currently living in a socially rented property - indicated that they needed more bedrooms (3%), and one respondent reporting that they needed more outside space (3%).

"I would like a bigger drive to put my trailer on as it's in storage when we don't use it"

The remaining 31 respondents (84%) were satisfied with the amount of space at their current property. Five respondents (14%) indicated that close family and friends came to stay with them for 1-2 weeks over the holiday periods, with three (8%) staying in the host's trailer, one (3%) bringing their own trailer and one (3%) staying in the spare room in the home.

"My Mam comes a few times a year for one to two weeks"

"My grandson for one to two weeks"

"My niece, her husband and one child comes a few times a year for one week, sometimes just a weekend"

6.11 Only four respondents (11%) felt hosting visitors to be a problem due to lack of room in their house. One respondent also stated that they do not have any room for their visitor's trailer outside the house.

Previous Accommodation Experiences

- 6.12 When asked why they came to live in their current property, people gave a variety of reasons (see Table 6.1 below). The most common reasons were to be near family (38%) and due to lack of sites (30%). Of those who cited 'other' as their reason for moving to their current property, reasons tended to be due to separation, marriage, a need to stop moving around and disputes at previous accommodation.

Table 6.1: Main reason for moving to the house

Reason	Number	Percentage
To be near family	14	38%
Lack of sites	9	24%
Other	8	22%
Health reasons	2	5%
The children's education	2	5%
Evicted from previous place	1	3%
Problems with neighbours	1	3%

- 6.13 Table 6.2 below shows the type of accommodation respondents had immediately before their current house. As can be seen in table 6.2 below, the majority at 30% (11 respondents) had moved from an unauthorised encampment and 24% (nine respondents) moved from a council site. Only four respondents (11%) had lived in their home all their adult life. With regards to where people had moved from, the 11 (30%) who had lived on unauthorised encampments tended to live on the roadsides in and around Ashford, with some also living on roadsides around the wider Kent area. Other specific places named were Sevenoaks, Maidstone, Tonbridge, High Halden, Romney Marsh and Ipswich. Five of the nine respondents who moved from a council site, moved from the council run site in Ashford; two because of harassment, one because of divorce and one because of a dispute with another family there. One respondent didn't offer a reason for moving from the site.

Table 6.2: Previous accommodation

Previous accommodation	Number	Percentage
Unauthorised encampment	11	30%
Council site	9	24%
Private site with permanent planning permission	8	22%
Been here all my life	4	11%
Private site with temporary planning permission	2	5%
Another house	1	3%
Unauthorised development	1	3%

- 6.14 A total of 27 respondents offered reasons as to why they had moved from their previous accommodation, with the main reason being that they were evicted from there (six respondents/22%). A variety of other reasons were cited, as detailed in table 6.3.

Table 6.3: Main reason for leaving previous accommodation

Reason	Number	Percentage
Evicted from previous place	6	22%
To be near family	3	11%
Health reasons	3	11%
The children's education	3	11%
Harassment	3	11%
Family problems/separation/divorce	3	11%
Tired of being moved on	2	7%
Fears for personal safety	1	4%
Overcrowded	1	4%
Planning problems	1	4%
Got married	1	4%

- 6.15 Six respondents (16%) had also lived in another house at some point during their life and this is most likely to be a socially rented property. The six respondent named a variety of places in terms of where their last bricks and mortar property was located; Ashford, Bromley Green (Ashford), Doddington in Kent, Leicester, Sevenoaks and Newington. Two respondents had moved into bricks and mortar accommodation due to there being a lack of sites. One respondent had moved there with family, one respondent moved there due to eviction, one simply moved there as there was a property available to rent and one wanted to try living in a house.

Length of Time in the Area and in the House

- 6.16 All of those currently living in bricks and mortar accommodation indicated that they had lived in the area for ten years or more, with 70% (26 respondents) being born in the area. The main reason for staying in Ashford was having close (97%) and extended (78%) family living in the area (See Table 6.3 below). When asked what the one most important reason for staying in the area was, 43% of respondent stated it was because they were born there, whereas 30% said it was due to having close family in the area.

Table 6.3: Reason for living in Ashford

Reason	Number	Percentage
Close family living in the area	36	97%
Extended family in the area	29	78%
Born/raised here	26	70%
Children's education	21	57%
Work available in the area	13	35%
Own/family members health	6	16%
To look after family	5	14%
Lack of sites	4	11%
Only place	1	2%

- 6.17 With regards to length of time in their current house, 18 respondents indicated that they had lived there for ten years or more (48%); 13 respondents had lived there for between five and ten years (35%); three respondents had lived there between three and five years (8%); two respondents between one and three years (5%) and one respondent for three to six months (3%).
- 6.18 With regards to how many weeks of the year they usually live in the Ashford area, 19 respondents (51%) indicated that they never leave; 15 respondents (41%) indicated that they left the area for between one and ten weeks per year; one respondent leaves the area for between ten and 20 weeks a year (2%) and two respondents leave the area for between 20 and 30 weeks a year (5%). One respondent - currently privately renting a bricks and mortar property - also has a base elsewhere. This respondent offered very little information about this base and simply stated:

"It's just a piece of land I bought a while ago as an investment. Not sure if I'm going to keep it and try to get planning or sell it"

Travelling Experiences

- 6.19 Just over half of respondents at 19 (51%) indicated that they never travelled. Respondents were able to provide multiple reasons for never travelling. The reasons for never travelling were identified as:
- Due to educational needs – ten respondents (27%)
 - Due to their or a family member's health - four (11%)
 - Due to their or a family member's older age - four (11%)
 - Due to no longer having a trailer – four (11%)
 - The remaining respondents gave individual reasons:
 - *"looking for land to make a site for me and my son"*
 - *"don't move anymore, just drive to see family"*
 - *"ain't moved for over five years"*
- 6.20 18 respondents in bricks and mortar travel, with the majority travelling a few times per year (12 respondents/32%) and once a year (four respondents/11%). When asked where they tended to go to, all of the respondents made reference to travelling to the fairs (for example, Appleby, Stow, Cambridge and Epsom). Of those who travel, 13 respondents reported the number of caravans they travel with; 9 (50%) travel with one caravan, one respondent (6%) travels with two caravans, and one respondent (6%) travels with three caravans.
- 6.21 All 18 respondents had travelled in the last 12 months and this was primarily to attend a fair (14 respondents/78%), to visit relatives (eight respondents/22%), for work (five respondents/14%) or for a holiday (four respondents/11%), with the **most important** reason being to attend a fair (nine respondents/50%). When travelling, 15 respondents staying in a designated fair site (83%), with seven respondents (39%) staying with family on a privately owned site, six respondents staying at a caravan park (33%) and five staying on the roadside (28%).

Work

6.22 Respondents reported the following in terms of the employment status of family members living in bricks and mortar accommodation:

- 36 in self-employment
- 12 in employment
- Three retired
- Four unemployed and looking for work
- Two unemployed and not looking for work
- 20 full time homemakers

6.23 Of the 48 family members either self-employed or employed, 42% mainly worked in Ashford, 13% in Dartford, 4% in Gravesham, 8% in Sevenoaks 15% in Maidstone, 4% in Swale, 6% in Tonbridge and Malling, 6% in Canterbury and 4% in Dover. Two respondents also stated that they worked across Kent. Three respondents (8%) report having experienced difficulties in accessing work.

"I cannot read or write and most jobs you need to be able to read or write"

"My wife had a job in a local shop for about 12 to 18 weeks then they found out we were Gypsy and they asked her to leave but she has a new job and it's better now and they know what we are and have welcomed us into their community"

"I don't tell anyone what we are when we're working"

Health Services and Issues

6.24 The respondents were asked if they had access to the following health services: GP/health centre; health visitor; maternity care; A & E; and dentist. All respondents indicated that they had sufficient access to these services; where households said that that they did not currently have access, this was because the service was not relevant to them (for example, ten respondents indicated that maternity care was not relevant). No one indicated that they had any problems with access to these services.

7. Travelling

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

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

Table 7.1: Frequency of travelling by current accommodation type

Frequency	All		Unauthorised development		Socially rented sites		Private sites (perm)		Private sites (temp)		Bricks & mortar		Travelling Showpeople	
	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)
Every day or so	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Every week	5	4%	-	-	-	-	2	4%	-	-	-	-	4	100%
Every month or so	6	5%	-	-	-	-	4	7%	-	-	2	5%	-	-
Few times a year	38	33%	2	100%	5	36%	19	33%	-	-	12	32%	-	-
Once per year	10	9%	-	-	2	14%	4	7%	-	-	4	11%	-	-
Never	55	48%	-	-	7	50%	28	49%	1	100%	19	51%	-	-

Base: 110 respondents providing information

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

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

Table 7.2: Reasons given for never travelling

Reason	Percentage
Your, a family member or a dependent's health	13%
Your, a family member or a dependent's educational needs	44%
Your, a family member or a dependent's older age	23%
Other reason	38%

Base: 55 respondents providing information. Respondents could submit multiple responses in order to best explain their situation.

- 7.5 A total of 38% of respondents who reported that they 'never travelled' said that this was because of 'other' reasons. Such reasons were diverse with many people providing responses that suggest that a lack of travelling is due to the changing nature of the travelling way of life.
- 7.6 A number of other people simply described themselves as '*settled*' or needing to stay in the area for a specific reason. This is namely because of commitments such as children's education or to look after their animals.

"Ain't got a trailer no more"

"Sold trailer when we moved here"

"Too many animals"

"Settled here"

- 7.7 For those who did travel, however, we asked them where they liked to go. This was an open question designed to allow respondents to mention three of the places they visit most frequently. The most common destination seemed to be Appleby Fair in Cumbria or a number of other traditional horse fairs across the UK. Places such as towns in the East of England as well as South and South East coastal resorts were also quite common responses. It is difficult to ascertain and quantify a specific travelling pattern from these responses; however, it seems that there was a preference for remaining in the 'South' of England, with the exception of annual visits to Appleby Fair in Cumbria.
- 7.8 For those people who still travelled, there was a wide variation in how many caravans/trailers they travelled with from one to four, with the majority at 62% travelling with just one caravan.
- 7.9 Of the 59 people who said they still travel to a certain extent, 93% of these had travelled at some point in the past 12 months. In terms of why they travelled, respondents cited attending fairs as the main reason followed by 'visiting family', 'work' and for 'a holiday'.

8. Future Accommodation, Household Formation and Accommodation Affordability

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

Future Accommodation Intentions

8.2 Table 8.1 shows the movement intentions of the households interviewed in Ashford.

Table 8.1: Movement intentions

Intention	Current accommodation									
	All		Socially rented sites		Bricks and mortar	Unauthorised development		Private sites (perm)	Private sites (temp)	Travelling Show People
	No	%	No	%	No %	No	%	No	%	No %
Immediate move	-	-	-	-	- -	-	-	-	-	- -
In the next 12 months	-	-	-	-	- -	-	-	-	-	- -
In the next 1-2 years	-	-	-	-	- -	-	-	-	-	- -
In the next 2-5 years	-	-	-	-	- -	-	-	-	-	- -
Need to move but not sure when	-	-	-	-	- -	-	-	-	-	- -
Stay indefinitely	28	25%	1	7%	5 14%	1	50%	19	34%	2 50%
Have no plans to move	82	72%	38	93%	29 78%	1	50%	36	64%	1 100%
Other	4	3%	-	-	3 8%	-	-	1	2%	- -

8.3 Of those four respondents who indicated their intention to move as 'other', the following were offered by way of explanation:

'As soon as we find a nice site or our own land'
– currently socially renting a bricks and mortar property

'As soon as we find somewhere we will move'
- currently privately renting a bricks and mortar property

'If we could find a bigger house we would move'

- currently socially renting a bricks and mortar property

'May move in March next year to look for work. We have only been married for a year so we are going to move in a bit'

- currently living on a private site with permanent planning permission

- 8.4 As can be seen from Table 8.1, 25% of respondents had firm intentions to stay in their current accommodation and the remaining 72% had no plans to move.¹² Those living on private sites with permanent planning permission were particularly likely to say that they intended to stay in their current accommodation indefinitely (34%). No respondents gave any timelines to their need to move, suggesting Ashford has a particularly settled community.
- 8.5 In terms of the **one main** reason for needing to move, of the four that gave 'other' as their answer as to when they intended to move, two (one currently socially renting bricks and mortar and one currently privately renting bricks and mortar) cited that they would like to purchase a house, one (currently socially renting a bricks and mortar property) stated that their property is overcrowded and one (currently on a private site with permanent permission) simply stated a desire to travel.
- 8.6 Of the four with some intention to move, three desired to stay in Ashford and one has some intention of firstly travelling to Cambridge. As none of the respondents have a definite plan to move, most types of sites are being considered as places to move. For those currently living in bricks and mortar, permanent accommodation such as another house, and social and private sites with permanent permission is the preference. For the one respondent planning on travelling, more transit sites and roadsides are being considered.
- 8.7 For the three respondents intending to stay in the Ashford area, this was mainly due to having close family in the area.

Household Concealment

- 8.8 No respondents reported concealed households (i.e. separate households living with them and are in need of immediate accommodation). One respondent stated that they 'don't know' if there was anybody living there that needed separate accommodation but did not give any further details. This respondent is currently socially renting a bricks and mortar property.

Household Formation

- 8.9 Respondents were also asked whether there were people living with them who were likely to need their own separate accommodation in the next five years (i.e. by 2017). A total of six households reported the potential for additional households to form in the future delivering a total of seven additional households.

¹² Those who state they have 'no plans to move' are indicating that they may move at some point but do not have any immediate plans to move (as at the time of their interview.) Those who state that they will 'stay indefinitely' at their current accommodation are indicating that they have firm plans and intentions to remain at their current accommodation.

Five respondents reported having one forming household and one respondent reported having two forming households. Four of these seven households require site based accommodation in Ashford:

Forming Households	Details about who this household is and where they intend to move to
HH1	16 year old daughter. Lives on the socially rented site. Will require a pitch on current site in Ashford.
HH2	A son who may get married. Lives on the socially rented site. Will require a pitch on a socially rented site but does not plan to stay in Ashford.
HH3	A son who may get married. Lives on the socially rented site. Will require a pitch on a socially rented site but does not plan to stay in Ashford.
HH4	A son who may get married. Lives on a private site with permanent planning permission. Requires a pitch on current site in Ashford. Do not have planning permission for this.
HH5	A son who may get married. Lives on a private site with permanent permission. Requires a pitch on current site in Ashford. Have planning permission for this.
HH6	A daughter who may get married. Lives on a private site with permanent planning permission. Will require site based accommodation but not in Ashford.
HH7	A son who may need his own accommodation. Lives on a private site with permanent permission. Requires a pitch on current site in Ashford. Does not have planning permission for this.

Accommodation Affordability

- 8.10 In order to explore issues of accommodation affordability we asked respondents if they could afford to purchase any of the following: a pitch on a private site with planning permission; pitch on a private site without planning permission; land to be developed into a site.
- 8.11 All respondents living on the socially rented sites indicated that they could not afford any of these options.
- 8.12 Of the two respondents living on unauthorised developments, one stated that they could not afford any of these options and one indicated that it was not relevant to them.
- 8.13 The respondent currently living on a private site with temporary planning permission stated that they could not afford any of these options.
- 8.14 20 respondents (40%) currently living on a private site with planning permission felt that they would not be able to afford any type of site. However, eight respondents (15%) said they could afford to purchase a private pitch with planning permission, and seven (13%) can afford to purchase land. 23 respondents (42%) felt that affordability was irrelevant to them and this was mainly due to being settled and happy on their current site, where they already own land.

“Don’t need any more land. A lot of my friends and family are here”

- 8.15 Of the 37 people living in bricks and mortar accommodation, five respondents (14%) said they could afford to purchase a pitch with planning permission or land to be developed into a site and a further four respondents (11%) said they could afford a pitch on a private site without planning permission. The occurrence of the ability to afford these types of land and sites was particularly high amongst those respondents who owned their own properties or were privately renting. 22 respondents (65%) said they could not afford any of these options, the majority of whom were living in socially rented properties. Seven respondents (19%) indicated that the issue was not relevant to them and reasons for this was mainly due to being settled in current house or feeling ‘too old’ to move;

“Too old, I like my bungalow”

- 8.16 All four of the Travelling Showpeople interviewed stated that land affordability was irrelevant as they already owned land and were settled on their current site.
- 8.17 Respondents were also asked how much they paid per month in rent or mortgage for their current accommodation (see Table 8.3). The majority of respondents - on sites and in bricks and mortar accommodation stated that they do not have rent or a mortgage to pay (62/55%). Of those who do pay rent or mortgage, the majority pay £90-£119 per month (20/18%).

Table 8.3: Rent/mortgage level (weekly)

		Current accommodation										
Rent/mortgage	All		Socially rented sites		Bricks and mortar		Private sites		Unauthorised developments		Travelling Show People	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
£30 - £59	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£60 - £89	13	12%	12	86%	1	3%	-	-	-	-	-	-
£90 - £119	20	18%	-	-	20	54%	-	-	-	-	-	-
£120- £149	6	5%	-	-	5	14%	1	2%	-	-	-	-
£150 - £179	1	1%	-	-	1	3%	-	-	-	-	-	-
Don't know	8	7%	2	14%	6	16%	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prefer not to say	3	3%	-	-	3	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-
Don't pay rent/ mortgage	62	55%	-	-	-	-	56	99%	2	100%	4	100%

Note: excludes one non response

Note about affordability

- 8.18 It is worth noting that a diversity of socio-economic situations is present amongst the Gypsy and Traveller communities, from the moderately wealthy to very poor families. Although obtaining empirical evidence on the economic circumstances of Gypsies and Travellers is very difficult it is well established that Gypsies and Travellers are amongst the most culturally, socially, physically and financially excluded in society.

A number of families will always be able to afford to purchase or rent pitches at market rates. However, in line with the rest of society, other sections of the communities will be excluded from accommodation provided at market rates and will require additional support to access safe and secure accommodation in line with their cultural needs. Without the continued provision of a range of tenure to address this diversity of socio-economic circumstances it may lead to a perpetuation and possible increase in hidden homelessness.

9. An Assessment of Accommodation Need

- 9.1 Irrespective of the proposed change in policy targeted at resolving Gypsy and Traveller accommodation issues there are no signs that the growth in the Gypsy and Traveller population will slow significantly. Research from the Equalities and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has indicated that around 6,000 additional pitches for Gypsies and Travellers are immediately required nationally to meet the current shortage of accommodation within England.¹³

A note on the Assessment of Accommodation Need

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

- The Guidance on Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments¹⁴
- Guidance for Regional Planning¹⁵
- Knowledge and experience of assumptions featuring in other GTAAAs and results of EiP tests of GTAAAs
- The emerging messages arising from the recent CLG consultation document '*Planning for Travellers*'

- 9.3 In a move from the first round of GTAAAs, this assessment has focussed more closely on two issues, the constitution of local and historic need and the need for site-based accommodation in line with the planning definition (see Chapter 2). In terms of addressing local and historic need this assessment has measured this by:

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

¹³ See Brown, P., Henning, S. and Niner, P (2010) *Assessing local housing authorities' progress in meeting the accommodation needs of Gypsy and Traveller communities in England and Wales : Update 2010*, Equality and Human Rights Commission.

¹⁴ CLG (2007) *Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments – Guidance*, London: HMSO.

¹⁵ CURS, SHUSU and CRESR (2007) *Preparing Regional Spatial Strategy reviews on Gypsies and Travellers by regional planning bodies*, London: CLG, online at: http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/209/PreparingRegionalSpatialStrategyreviewsonGypsiesandTravellersbyregionalplannings_id1508209.pdf

- 9.4 This study has taken a thorough assessment of the need arising from all accommodation types present at the time of the survey. As such this assessment of need should be regarded as a reasonable and robust assessment of need upon which to base planning decisions in the future.
- 9.5 Table 9.1 below contains the requirements for net additional pitches that need to be developed to meet the measured need. Accommodation need has been considered in this assessment by carefully exploring the following factors:

Current Residential Supply

- Socially rented pitches.
- Private authorised pitches.

Residential Need 2012 – 2017

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

Additional Supply 2012 – 2017

- 9.6 The requirements are presented in summary form in Table 9.1 below. This table details the accommodation and pitch need, derived from applying the definition as used in the Housing Act and the Planning definition. The housing definition is considered to illustrate overall accommodation need for the District. **All figures relate to pitches not sites.**

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

Element of supply and need		Column 1 Accommodation Need/Supply Total (households)
1	Socially rented pitches	16
2	Private authorised pitches	108
3	Total authorised Gypsy & Traveller pitches	124
4	End of temporary planning permissions	8
5	Concealed households	1
6	New household formation	5
7	Unauthorised developments	4
8	Net Movement from housing to sites	1
9	Closure of sites	0
10	Unauthorised encampments	0
11	Movement between areas	0
12	Residential pitch need (2012 –2017)	19
13	Supply (2012 - 2017)	2
14	Residential pitch need (2012 – 2017)	17
15	Residential pitch need (2017 – 2022)	17
16	Residential pitch need (2022 – 2027)	19
17	Residential pitch need (2027 – 2028)	4
18	Total Residential pitch need (2012–2028)	57

Note: For pragmatic reasons these figures have been rounded to the nearest whole pitch

Explanation of the Need Requirement Elements

Current Residential Supply

- 9.7 **Row 1:** The number of pitches on socially rented sites provided by local authority information.
- 9.8 **Row 2:** The number of pitches on private authorised sites provided by local authority information.
- 9.9 **Row 3:** The total number of authorised pitches within Ashford.

Residential Pitch Needs 2012–2017

- 9.10 **Row 4:** The number of pitches, which have temporary planning permission due to expire within the assessment period. Column 1 of Table 9.1 details the number of pitches with temporary planning permission in the district ending within the assessment period. Column 2 of Table 9.1 details the number of pitches with temporary planning permission in the district ending within the assessment period, where residents are estimated to meet the need for site-based accommodation under the planning definition. However, as we were only able to consult with one household on one of the temporary sites - who demonstrated strong links with the area and who rarely travelled - we assume households on these pitches require permanent pitch based accommodation in the borough.
- 9.11 **Row 5:** The number of concealed households occupying existing accommodation who require independent accommodation within Ashford.

Pitch requirement from concealed households

Finding: Local authority information reported a single household, which was doubled-up on the council run site. Survey findings from across all accommodation types suggest that there are no concealed households.

Assumptions:

- Survey data indicated a nil requirement from concealed households across all accommodation types
- We consulted with around 50% of the estimated population across the Study Area
- We assume this 50% to be reflective of the overall population
- We assume any potential need from private sites is being accommodated within the existing provision.

Calculation: An allowance for one household has been made in order to accommodate the need arising from the socially rented site.

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

Pitch requirement from new households forming

Finding: Drawing upon the information contained within Chapter 7, the survey showed that there were seven households who required their own separate accommodation in the next five years. However, it is expected that three of these future households would move out of Ashford.

Assumptions:

- Three households from one of the private sites had definite intentions to move away from the Study Area.
- Following responses to the survey, it is expected that the remaining four

households will remain in the Ashford area and they will all require site-based accommodation.

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

Calculation:

Authorised private sites (permanent) – three households were identified in the survey as requiring site-based accommodation. Applying the pitch-sharing ratio of 1:075, this equates to two new households, which is the equivalent to 4% of the sample on private sites. This is then grossed to the whole population of households on permanent private sites = four households

Socially rented sites – one household was identified in the survey as requiring site-based accommodation. Applying the pitch-sharing ratio of 1:075 retains a single household. As all households on the socially rented site was interviewed this is representative of the population. Pitch requirement = one household.

Total pitch need from newly forming households = five households

- 9.13 **Row 7:** This is the level of need arising from current unauthorised developments. Column 1 of Table 9.1 details the number of pitches on unauthorised developments within the district.

Households on pitches on unauthorised developments meeting the planning definition

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

Column 1 of Table 9.1 presents the estimated number of households currently residing on unauthorised developments. Since these sites are, by definition, unauthorised, these households are in need of authorised, legal accommodation, whether through the granting of planning permission, the provision of other accommodation options or the provision of accommodation elsewhere.

Finding: The survey found that those living on unauthorised developments were long-standing settled residents who sometimes travelled from their base in Ashford.

Assumptions: This is reflective of the overall population of those living on unauthorised sites in Ashford.

Calculation: all households on unauthorised developments are in need of accommodation in the area = six households

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

Movement between housing and sites

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

Movement from housing to sites: The survey data did not indicate a particular immediate need for pitches from households in bricks and mortar housing. However, one household had their name on a site waiting list and two households were actively looking for land to move onto to develop into a site. Three households is the equivalent to 8% of the sample from bricks and mortar housing and one household is the equivalent to 3% of the sample.

Assumptions:

- Responses from the survey suggest that it is likely that there will be some movement from housing to sites over the assessment period.
- It is unrealistic to assume that the two households who said they are looking for land will find that land and move there within the assessment period. This is further supported by the fact that satisfaction levels with housing were high and movement intentions low. Experience suggests it would need particularly attractive site provision or land availability to encourage house to site movement.
- We recognise the aversion to housing that exists amongst the Gypsy and Traveller bricks and mortar population per se, there is little evidence of this from this particular survey.
- Assume upon the creation of more pitches, and improvement to site conditions, there will be no movement from sites to housing over the assessment period.

Calculation: Assume that 3% of the estimated bricks and mortar population will require site-based accommodation. This provides a requirement for one household who will move from housing to sites.

Net movement from housing to sites = one household.

9.15 **Row 9:** Plans to close existing sites, which have been calculated within the supply of site accommodation, will ultimately displace a number of Gypsies and Travellers resulting in an increase in housing need. There are no sites that are due to close.

9.16 **Row 10:** This provides an estimation of the need arising from households on unauthorised encampments. Information received from the local authority, the County Council and derived from fieldwork indicated that the level of unauthorised camping was usually low to nil. The small number of encampments, which did occur, was primarily attributed to requiring transit accommodation for short periods. There appears to be no need arising from unauthorised encampments in the Study Area.

- 9.17 **Row 11:** This is the level of movement of households between areas. The assessment found no evidence to suggest that there is movement between areas. It is assumed that if movement does occur, in-migration will balance out-migration.
- 9.18 **Row 12:** This is the total gross residential need for pitches arising in Ashford between 2012 and 2017.
- 9.19 **Row 13:** This includes the two pitches currently vacant on the socially rented site which, when available, will provide a supply of two additional pitches.
- 9.20 **Row 14:** This is the total net requirement for pitches arising in Ashford between 2012 and 2017.

Permanent Residential Accommodation Needs over 2017–2022, 2022–2027 and 2027–2028

- 9.21 The current shortage of sites and pitches nationally for Gypsies and Travellers means that it is difficult to predict trends in living arrangements until the current lack of pitch-based accommodation has been addressed at a national level. There is no means of knowing how Gypsies and Travellers will decide to live in the next decade.
- 9.22 However, it is necessary to plan for the long term and anticipate pitch need from Gypsy and Traveller households. In order to tackle the complexity of needs that may well occur over the next decade it is established practice in assessment of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation need to apply an assumed rate of household growth. It has been common in similar studies to employ a standard 3% per annum compound rate of household growth. This figure is then applied, minus an assumed, for pitch sharing of 1:0.75, to the projected number of pitches, which should be available by 2017. All household growth is assumed to require a site-based solution. The supply of pitches over the 2017–2028 period has been considered, but has been assumed to be zero. This is consistent with more recent GTAA's and implicitly compensates for not taking into account needs arising from drivers other than family growth. It is recommended that the rate of household growth be kept under review.
- 9.23 **Row 15:** The total requirement for pitches in Ashford over the period 2017-2022.
- 9.24 **Row 16:** The total requirement for pitches in Ashford over the period 2022-2027.
- 9.25 **Row 17:** The total requirement for pitches in Ashford over the period 2027-2028.
- 9.26 **Row 18:** The total overall requirement for pitches in Ashford over the period 2012-2028.

In Summary

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

- Pitches where temporary planning permission is due to expire
- Household concealment and new household formation in the area
- Movement from houses to sites
- Unauthorised developments in the area

9.28 This analysis has shown that there is an accommodation need for **57 households** over the 2012-2028 period. These figures incorporate a household growth rate of 3% a year compound as applied to all current households in the area and all future households that should be accommodated on pitches by 2017 to estimate need in the period 2017-2028.

10. Travelling Showpeople

- 10.1 Travelling Showpeople occupy an unusual position in planning terms and a separate planning Circular, detailing the particular planning needs of Travelling Showpeople, was produced: Circular 04/07. As well as detailing the requirements for plot identification and allocation for Travelling Showpeople, Circular 04/07 also required that the accommodation needs of Travelling Showpeople were included within the assessments of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs. Circular 04/07 has been replaced by the new planning policy¹⁶. However, it is clear that the accommodation needs of Travelling Showpeople should be included within the assessments of accommodation need for 'travellers' within this new framework.
- 10.2 There is one authorised site for Travelling Showpeople in Ashford, which is thought to have four caravans on site.
- 10.3 The Showmans Guild describes the Showpersons site in Ashford to be established and well planned with no issues or problems. In terms of the families living at this site, the Guild are not aware of any need for additional pitches or sites for Travelling Showpeople specifically in Ashford.
- 10.4 It should be noted that Travelling Showpeople remain distinct from Gypsies and Travellers and further work may need to be produced, across local authority boundaries, to accurately understand their accommodation needs. There may be a need for accommodation in the district from families working in the area but who live in adjacent or other authorities. A cross-boundary assessment in partnership with the Showmen's Guild would, most effectively, identify such shortage.

Travelling Showpeople: Survey Findings

- 10.5 The research team conducted four interviews with members of the authorised Travelling Showpeople site at Circus Farm, Smarden. Due to the small number of interviews secured, it is impractical to present the survey responses as percentages. The following summarises the key issues emerging from the interviews:
- All stated that the site has permanent planning permission.
 - All reported that they had enough space for trailers and equipment and that accommodating visitors was not a problem.
 - Two stated that they lived there to be near family and two because they had found the land available to buy.
 - One respondent previously owned a bricks and mortar property which they moved to for work reasons and left to be closer to family.
 - Three of the four respondents were born in the Ashford area and all have lived in the area for at least ten years.

¹⁶ CLG (2012) *Planning for traveller sites*
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/2113371.pdf>

- All said they travel every week for work and have done so in the last 12 months. Three have also travelled to visit family and tend to stay on a Showpeople's Yard.
- All four work across the whole country.
- All four report having no needs or problems in terms of accessing work.
- All report having adequate access to health services, where applicable.
- Two respondents indicated that they are going to stay on the site indefinitely whilst the other two had no plans to move.¹⁷

Assessment of Accommodation Need for Travelling Showpeople

10.6 As highlighted previously, this study has taken a thorough assessment of the need arising from all accommodation types present at the time of the survey. Table 10.1 below contains the requirements for net additional plots that need to be developed to meet the measured need of Travelling Showpeople in the study area. Accommodation need has been considered in this assessment by carefully exploring the following factors:

Current Residential Supply

- Socially rented plots.
- Private authorised plots.

Residential Need 2012–2017

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

Additional Supply, 2012–2017

- There is no evidence of potential supply for plots in the borough.

¹⁷ Those who state they have 'no plans to move' are indicating that they may move at some point but do not have any immediate plans to move (as at the time of their interview.) Those who state that they will 'stay indefinitely' at their current accommodation are indicating that they have firm plans and intentions to remain at their current accommodation.

Table 10.1: Summary of Travelling Showpeople accommodation and pitch need (2012-2028)

Element of supply and need		Accommodation Need/Supply Total (households)
Current residential supply		
1	Socially rented plots	0
2	Private authorised plots	4
3	Total authorised plots	4
Residential plot need 2012-2017		
4	End of temporary planning permissions	0
5	Concealed households	0
6	New household formation	0
7	Unauthorised developments	0
8	Closure of sites	0
9	Movement between areas	0
10	Residential plot need (2012–2017)	0
11	Supply (2012-2017)	0
12	Residential plot need (2012-2017)	0
13	Residential plot need (2017–2022)	0
14	Residential plot need (2022–2028)	0
15	Total Residential plot need (2012–2028)	0

Explanation of the Need Requirement Elements

Current Residential Supply

- 10.7 **Row 1:** The number of plots on socially rented yards provided by local authority information. This was reported to be nil.
- 10.8 **Row 2:** The number of plots on private authorised yards provided by local authority information. This was reported to be four.
- 10.9 **Row 3:** The total number of authorised plots within the study area.

Residential Plot Need 2012–2017

- 10.10 **Row 4:** The number of pitches, which have temporary planning permission due to expire within the assessment period. This was reported to be nil.
- 10.11 **Row 5:** The number of concealed households occupying existing accommodation who require independent accommodation within the borough. This was reported to be nil.

- 10.12 **Row 6:** This is the number of plots required from new household formation. This was reported to be nil.
- 10.13 **Row 7:** This is the level of need arising from current unauthorised developments. This was reported to be nil.
- 10.14 **Row 8:** This is the level of need arising from current unauthorised encampments. This was reported to be nil.
- 10.15 **Row 9:** This is the level of movement of households between areas. The survey found no evidence to suggest that there was a requirement for accommodation outside of the borough from households currently living in the area.
- 10.16 **Row 10:** This is the total gross residential need for plots arising in the district between 2012-2017.
- 10.17 **Row 11:** This is the level of plot supply over the 2012-2017 period. This is assumed to be nil.
- 10.18 **Row 12:** The total net requirement for plots in the district over the period 2012–2017.
- 10.19 **Row 13:** The total requirement for plots in the district over the period 2017-2022.
- 10.20 **Row 14:** The total requirement for plots in the district over the period 2022-2028.
- 10.21 **Row 15:** The total overall requirement for plots in the district over the period 2012-2028.

In Summary

- 10.22 Analysis has shown there to be a nil need for plots for Travelling Showpeople over the assessment period.

11. An Assessment of Need for Transit Accommodation

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

Need for Transit Sites and Stopping Places

- 11.2 National policy is clear that there should be provision in order for Gypsies and Travellers who choose to travel to do so without resorting to stopping illegally or inappropriately.
- 11.3 Information provided by Ashford Borough Council and other stakeholders suggests that the study area experiences a low level of unauthorised camping each year. Most of these encampments, when they do occur, are thought to require transit solutions. The presence of unauthorised encampments does indicate an unmet need for transit provision albeit quite low. However, determining the need for transit pitches is extremely complex. A common method used by local authorities has been to base the level of need on the average size of the unauthorised encampments that were occurring in their area. However, as highlighted in Chapter 5, there was limited data available on the number and size of encampments that had occurred the last few years. Consistent data would therefore be required in order to assess this issue.
- 11.4 While it is difficult to determine transit need, this assessment would support the approach of creating a network of transit facilities across the wider region to accommodate short-term accommodation requirements. Such an approach is discussed in a regional study on transit need produced in 2009.¹⁸
- 11.5 There is little evidence for the provision of a formal separate transit site specifically in Ashford. However, if need does arise, a number of alternative options could be explored such as incorporating transit provision into existing residential sites and new residential site developments. Similarly, although transit need could be met by the creation of 'hard' purpose-made pitches/sites, it is also recommended that consideration is given to the need for the development of such 'hard' pitches along with the possibility of 'soft' transit pitches (i.e. designated stopping places). Such 'softer' options would provide Gypsies and Travellers with somewhere authorised and more secure to stop whilst creating a minimal environmental impact. Such stopping places are often favoured by Gypsy and Traveller households.

¹⁸ Niner, P. (2009) *South East England Regional Gypsy and Traveller Transit Study*, Final Report, Birmingham: University of Birmingham, October 2009

Appendix 1: The Assessment Methodology

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

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

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

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

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

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

Stage One: Collation and Review of Existing Secondary Information

This first stage comprised a review of the available literature and secondary sources. This provided an historical, social and political overview to the situation of Gypsies and Travellers in the study area. More specifically this included the collection, review and synthesis of:

- The bi-annual Count of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans.
- Records and data maintained and provided by the local authority.
- The original GTAA produced by DCA Research in 2005/2006.
- Review of previous GTAA's produced for the South East England Regional Assembly in 2008.

Stage Two: Consultation with Key Stakeholders

The analysis and review of existing information was supported by engagement and consultation with a small number of key stakeholders. This consultation took the form of telephone interviews, which were tailored to the role of the individual. The aim of these interviews was to provide clarification on issues arising from existing data and provide an understanding of the context of current provision. Consultation was carried out with officers representing the following departments/roles/agencies: planning; housing; and community development.

Stage Three: Survey with Gypsies and Travellers

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

Sampling and response rates

Sampling Gypsy and Traveller households for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments is always problematic given the absence of accurate information concerning the size and location of the Travelling communities. As such the sampling technique for the assessment was purposive rather than purely random. The sampling strategy for the assessment differed depending upon the particular accommodation type currently inhabited by Gypsies and Travellers in Ashford.¹⁹

- Information provided by the Council stated that there were 48 sites within Ashford. The Community Interviewers were asked to interview as many separate households as possible within the fieldwork timescale (with a minimum target of 50% of current households).
- For households on unauthorised encampments, officers within Ashford Borough Council were asked to inform the fieldwork team when and where encampments occurred during the two week fieldwork period. There were no unauthorised encampments during the fieldwork period.

¹⁹ Such a sampling strategy coupled with the lack of knowledge about the overall size of the Gypsy and Traveller population means that discussing statistical issues such as sampling error and confidence intervals would be misleading.

- As the population of Gypsies and Travellers in bricks and mortar housing is relatively hidden from official records there was no sample frame from which to identify people. Therefore, in order to engage with housed Gypsies and Travellers, the fieldwork team relied on three main methods: contacts of Gypsies and Travellers who had already been interviewed on site-based accommodation; snowball sampling where one respondent in housing recommended engaging with similar households; and the existing contacts/networks of the Gypsy and Traveller Community Interviewers on the fieldwork team.

A total of **114 households** were involved in the assessment.

In terms of the gender split between interviewees, 85 women (76%) were interviewed and 27 men (24%). This reflects a commonly achieved gender distribution in GTAA's.

On a base population of 187 households in Ashford, we consulted with 114 resident households, 61% of the estimated resident Gypsy and Traveller community across Ashford.

We believe that the sample is as representative as can be reasonably expected given the timescale available for the assessment. We have no reason to believe that those households included in the survey are untypical from the total population in the area. Overall, we believe that the findings for the assessment are based on reliable information from accommodation types within the study area.

Questionnaire Design

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

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

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

Fieldwork and Interviewers

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

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

Appendix 3: Demographics of the Local Gypsy and Traveller Population

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

Demographic and Household Characteristics

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

Age of interviewees

The age profile of the sample can be seen from Table A2.1. The 25–39 and 40–45 age groups were most consulted during the assessment, forming 39% and 29% of the total sample respectively. There was greater variation in age in the sample interviewed on the private sites with planning permission per se.

Table A2.1: Age of interviewees

			Current accommodation											
Age group	All		Socially rented sites		Bricks and mortar		Private sites with planning permission		Unauthorised developments		Private sites with temp permission		Travelling Showpeople	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
17–24	7	6%	-	-	1	3%	6	11%	-	-	-	-	-	-
25–39	44	39%	7	50%	13	35%	21	28%	1	50%	-	-	2	50%
40–49	33	29%	3	21%	18	49%	9	16%	1	50%	1	100%	1	25%
50–59	16	14%	2	14%	2	6%	11	20%	-	-	-	-	1	25%
60–74	14	12%	2	14%	3	8%	9	16%	-	-	-	-	-	-
75–84	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
85+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	114	100	14	100	37	100	56	100	2	100	1	100	4	100

Household Size

In total, the survey sample accounts for 114 members of the Gypsy and Traveller community in Ashford: 14 on socially rented sites; two on unauthorised developments, 56 on private sites with permanent planning permission, one on a private site with temporary planning permission, 37 in bricks and mortar accommodation and four on Travelling Showpeople sites. The average household size for the sample as a whole was 3.6. This is larger than the household size of the non-Traveller population. There appeared to be a difference in household size between the different accommodation types; for example, the average household size for those in bricks and mortar was four, compared to 3.6 on private sites and 3.3 on the Travelling Showpeople yard.

Table A2.2 below shows the number of children of different age cohorts across the sample.

Table A2.2: Number of children in households by accommodation type

Age group	All No	Current accommodation				
		Socially rented sites No	Bricks and mortar No	Private sites No	Unauthorised developments No	Travelling Showpeople No
0 - 5	21	2	2	15	1	1
6 - 10	78	12	29	35	1	1
11 - 16	78	6	41	30	0	1
Total	177	20	72	80	2	3

Gypsy and Traveller Groups

The largest single group was Romany/Gypsy (English) (90%). This was followed by smaller numbers of Irish Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.

Table A2.3: Interviewees by Gypsy and Traveller group

		Current accommodation										
Gypsy and Traveller groups	All		Socially rented sites		Bricks and mortar		Private sites		Unauthorised developments		Travelling Showpeople	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Romany/Gypsy (English)	103	90%	14	100%	37	100%	50	87%	2	100%	-	-
Irish Traveller	7	6%	-	-	-	-	7	13%	-	-	-	-
Showmen	4	4%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	100%
Total	114	100%	14	100%	37	100%	57	100%	2	100%	4	100%

Appendix 4: Questionnaire

Ashford Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Study Questionnaire

Introduction

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

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

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

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

Address/Site: _____

Date of Interview: _____

Interviewer name: _____

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

SECTION A: CURRENT ACCOMMODATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Own your plot/pitch

☐₁ Go to QA6

Rent your plot/pitch

☐₂ Go to QA6

Other **(please specify below)**

☐₃ Go to QA6

Don't know

☐₄ Go to QA6

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

Own your trailer/chalets/units

☐

Rent your trailer/chalets/units

☐

Other **(please specify below)**

☐

Don't know

☐

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

a. Do you have in total?

b. Are used as sleeping spaces?

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

d. Are used mainly for storage/occasional use?

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

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

Yes

☐₁ Go to QA10

No

☐₂ Go to QA9

Don't know

☐₃ Go to QA9

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

1. A larger site/yard

☐

2. A larger pitch/plot

☐

3. More caravans/trailers/units

☐

4. Larger caravans/trailers/units

☐

5. More bedrooms or living space

☐

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

☐

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

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

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

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

To be near family/friends ☐ ₄

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

Evicted from last accommodation ☐ ₆

Lack of sites ☐ ₇

Overcrowded in previous accommodation ☐ ₈

For children's schooling/education ☐ ₉

Work available in the area ☐ ₁₀

Land/pitch was available to buy ☐ ₁₁

There was a vacancy ☐ ₁₂

Convenient for working pattern (Showpeople only) ☐ ₁₃

Holiday ☐ ₁₄

Family event ☐ ₁₅

Other (please specify below) ☐ ₁₆

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

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

Yes ☐ ₁ Go to QA12

No ☐ ₂ Go to QA14

Don't know ☐ ₃ Go to QA14

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

With me in my trailer/chalet/house ☐ ₁

They bring a trailer and stay on my pitch/driveway ☐ ₂

They bring a trailer and stay elsewhere on this site (e.g. on a transit pitch) ☐ ₃

They stay on the roadside near this site/house ☐ ₄

Other (**please specify below**) ☐ ₅

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

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

Not a problem for you ☐ ₁

A problem (**please specify below**) ☐ ₂

Other (**please specify below**) ☐ ₃

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

SECTION B: LOCAL AND HISTORIC CONNECTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

b: What type of accommodation is it?

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

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

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

I/We visit this area every now and then ☐ ₁

I/We use it as a winter base ☐ ₂

I/We use it as a summer base ☐ ₃

I/We are based there for part of the year ☐ ₄

It's my/our permanent accommodation where we travel from ☐ ₅

Other (**please specify below**) ☐ ₆

SECTION C: TRAVELLING

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

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

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

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

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

INTERVIEWER: IF NEVER TRAVEL, GO TO SECTION D

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

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

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

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

QC7. Have you travelled in the last 12 months?

- Yes ☐ ₁ **Go to QC8**
 No ☐ ₂ **Go to SECTION D**
 Don't know ☐ ₃ **Go to SECTION D**

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION D: PREVIOUS HOUSING EXPERIENCES

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

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

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

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

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

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

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ Go to QD5 |
| No | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ Go to SECTION E |
| Don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ Go to SECTION E |

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

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Council rented | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ |
| Housing Association/RSL rented | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ |
| Private rented | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ |
| Privately owned | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ |
| Other (please specify below) | <input type="checkbox"/> ₅ |
-

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

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

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

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

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

To be near family/friends ☐ ₄

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

Evicted from last site ☐ ₆

Lack of sites ☐ ₇

For children's schooling/education ☐ ₈

Work available in the area ☐ ₉

House was available to buy ☐ ₁₀

House was available to rent ☐ ₁₁

Convenient for working pattern (Showpeople) ☐ ₁₂

Other (please specify below) ☐ ₁₃

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

Very good ☐ ₁

Good ☐ ₂

Neither good nor poor ☐ ₃

Poor ☐ ₄

Very poor ☐ ₅

Don't know ☐ ₆

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

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

SECTION E: HOUSEHOLD DETAILS

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

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

OFFICE USE ONLY

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

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

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

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

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

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

Within Ashford

☐ ₁

(note: show map of authority and include place below)

Outside Ashford, but within nearby/neighbouring authority:

(note: please select one of the following)

Dartford District

☐ ₂

Gravesham District

☐ ₃

Medway District

☐ ₄

Sevenoaks District

☐ ₅

Tunbridge Wells District

☐ ₆

Maidstone District

☐ ₇

Swale District

☐ ₈

Tonbridge and Malling District

☐ ₉

Canterbury District

☐ ₁₀

Shepway District

☐ ₁₁

Thanet District

☐ ₁₂

Dover District

☐ ₁₃

Other parts of the UK **(please specify below)**

☐ ₁₄

Abroad

☐ ₁₅

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

Yes

☐ ₁ **Go to QE9**

No

☐ ₂ **Go to QE10**

Don't know

☐ ₃ **Go to QE10**

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

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

- Yes ☐ ₁ Go to QE11
- No ☐ ₂ Go to SECTION F
- Don't know ☐ ₃ Go to SECTION F

QE11. If YES, what problems?

SECTION F: HEALTH SERVICES AND ISSUES

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

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

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

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

- Yes ☐ ₁ Go to QF3
- No ☐ ₂ Go to Section G
- Don't know ☐ ₃ Go to Section G

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

SECTION G: FUTURE ACCOMMODATION

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

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

QG2. Why do you need to move?

(Interviewer:

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

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

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

- Yes ☐₁
- No ☐₂
- Don't know ☐₃

QG4. What accommodation are you looking for?

(Interviewer:

a. Tick all types that apply

b. From types they have given, ask them to choose one main preference)

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

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

Within Ashford

☐1

(note: show map of authority and include place below)

Outside Ashford, but within nearby/neighbouring authority:

(note: please select one of the following)

Dartford District

☐2

Gravesham District

☐3

Medway District

☐4

Sevenoaks District

☐5

Tunbridge Wells District

☐6

Maidstone District

☐7

Swale District

☐8

Tonbridge and Malling District

☐9

Canterbury District

☐10

Shepway District

☐11

Thanet District

☐12

Dover District

☐13

Other parts of the UK **(please specify below)**

☐14

Abroad

☐15

QG6. Why this place?

(Interviewer:

a. Tick all the reasons that apply

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

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

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

Yes ☐₁

No ☐₂

Don't know ☐₃

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

Yes ☐₁ **Go to QG9**

No ☐₂ **Go to QG15**

Don't know ☐₃ **Go to QG15**

QG9. How many members of your household? _____

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

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

Within Ashford

☐ 1

(note: show map of authority and include place below)

Outside Ashford, but within nearby/neighbouring authority:

(note: please select one of the following)

Dartford District

☐ 2

Gravesham District

☐ 3

Medway District

☐ 4

Sevenoaks District

☐ 5

Tunbridge Wells District

☐ 6

Maidstone District

☐ 7

Swale District

☐ 8

Tonbridge and Malling District

☐ 9

Canterbury District

☐ 10

Shepway District

☐ 11

Thanet District

☐ 12

Dover District

☐ 13

Other parts of the UK **(please specify below)**

☐ 14

Abroad

☐ 15

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

Bricks & Mortar

☐ 1 **Go to QG15**

Site based trailer/caravan

☐ 2 **Go to QG13**

Up to them

☐ 3 **Go to QG13**

Don't know

☐ 4 **Go to QG13**

Other **(please specify below)**

☐ 5 **Go to QG13**

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| A pitch on a council site | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Go to QG15 |
| Live on this pitch with us | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Go to QG14 |
| Live on this site | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Go to QG15 |
| Rent a pitch on a private site | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Go to QG15 |
| Purchase a pitch on a private site | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Go to QG15 |
| Purchase their own site/land to be developed into a site | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Go to QG15 |
| Don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Go to QG15 |
| Other (please specify below) | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 Go to QG15 |
-

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

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

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

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Go to QG16 |
| No | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Go to QG22 |
| Don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Go to QG22 |

QG16. How many members of your household? _____

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

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

Within Ashford

☐ 1

(note: show map of authority and include place below)

Outside Ashford, but within nearby/neighbouring authority:

(note: please select one of the following)

Dartford District

☐ 2

Gravesham District

☐ 3

Medway District

☐ 4

Sevenoaks District

☐ 5

Tunbridge Wells District

☐ 6

Maidstone District

☐ 7

Swale District

☐ 8

Tonbridge and Malling District

☐ 9

Canterbury District

☐ 10

Shepway District

☐ 11

Thanet District

☐ 12

Dover District

☐ 13

Other parts of the UK **(please specify below)**

☐ 14

Abroad

☐ 15

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

Bricks & Mortar

☐ 1 **Go to QG22**

Site based trailer/caravan

☐ 2 **Go to QG20**

Up to them

☐ 3 **Go to QG20**

Don't know

☐ 4 **Go to QG20**

Other **(please specify below)**

☐ 5 **Go to QG20**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ Go to QG25 |
| No | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ Go to QG26 |
| Don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ Go to QG26 |

QG25. Which list? Where?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you very much for your time

For further details on the study please contact:

Joanna Brown on 0161 295 6926 or Dr Phil Brown on 0161 295 3647