

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 Introduction

1. The accommodation needs assessment assesses service provision and needs for Gypsies and Travellers across the County of Norfolk, comprising: Breckland District Council, Broadland District Council, Great Yarmouth Borough Council, Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council, North Norfolk District Council, Norwich City Council, and South Norfolk Council. In addition to Gypsies and Travellers living in Norfolk, it includes members of those communities visiting or passing through the County at the time of the survey.
2. The Housing Act 2004 requires local housing authorities to include Gypsies and Travellers in accommodation needs assessments and to take a strategic approach including drawing up a strategy demonstrating how the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers will be met (DCLG Circular 01/2006, p.5). The survey was conducted as a requirement of this act, with the objective of identifying possible need for additional site provision and services in Norfolk over the next five years.
3. The assessment was undertaken by partner agencies of Norfolk Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Group (GTLG), comprising of officers from its county and district councils, Traveller Education Services, Norfolk Property Services, Norfolk Police, Supporting People, Norfolk and Norwich Race Equality Council (NNREC), Ormiston Trust, and members of Gypsy and Traveller communities.
4. Gypsies and Travellers are considered to be 'Hard to Reach' communities. Whilst this terminology may not be helpful, it is agreed is that these communities are not in the mainstream regarding communication and consultation. Subsequently, there are insufficient mechanisms within individual authorities to undertake effective consultation.
5. There was unanimous agreement from GTLG partners that the survey should be completed by field workers represented on the group. It was felt that the existing rapport of these staff would result in co-operation, and the ability to follow up on information if necessary. Representatives of the county and all district councils took part, as did officers from Traveller Education, Norfolk Property Services, and members of the Gypsy and Traveller communities represented on the group. A local Gypsy and Traveller advocacy service was approached to assist with the survey, but felt they must be seen to remain independent of the Local Authorities.
6. The assessment was undertaken with reference to early guidelines issued in 2005 by the former ODPM. Other counties were consulted on the conducting of the survey, as was the Gypsy and Traveller Unit of the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

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7. Primary data sources were survey forms (appendix 1) completed by 81 Gypsies and Travellers (representing some 286 members of Gypsies and Traveller communities), and ODPM caravan count figures over the last ten years. Other sources included a *Strategy for Gypsies and Travellers in Norfolk*, and records of encampments kept by the County and District councils.

8. The ODPM's Gypsy and Traveller Unit encouraged authorities across the region to respond quickly to the need to complete and publish the surveys, in order to ensure that assessment results were able to be incorporated into Local Development Frameworks. It was agreed that authorities should aim for completion by December 2006.

The task

9. The working group responsible for co-ordinating the assessment was led by Norfolk County Council's Travellers Liaison Officer. Previous questionnaire formats were considered, as were draft formats from other local authorities. It was agreed that as much relevant supplementary material as practicable be collected to minimise the need for future questionnaires.

10. An early draft questionnaire was developed, and checked against the guidelines emerging from the ODPM in October 2005. The working group met for an initial meeting where the first draft of the form was considered. It was agreed that an amended form would then be produced, and used to conduct a preliminary survey to see how the final forms would be received by Gypsy and Traveller communities.

11. Twelve draft forms were completed on Gypsy and Traveller sites, with comments recorded. These comments shaped a second draft, which was then sent to the then ODPM's Gypsy and Traveller Unit for their comments before a final draft was published.

12. A further meeting was organised for fieldworkers responsible for conducting surveys. Guidelines were issued and explained, (appendix 2) and roles and purpose of the survey clarified. It was agreed that surveys should be conducted during the fortnight commencing 5th December 2005, and collated for analysis to begin in January 2006.

13 It was agreed that Norfolk County Council would collate information from all forms to produce a joint report. The original forms would then be returned to the District Councils for their own analysis and reports.

14. Draft Guidance for carrying out accommodation assessments was not published until February 2006, by which time the questionnaires had been completed, and the assessment was already underway. Where possible, recommendations of the guidelines were implemented in the report. In summary, the guidance recommended that:

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- i) While responsibility for carrying out the assessment rests with individual housing authorities, a partnership approach should be adopted, utilising existing partnerships where appropriate.
- ii) Data arising from jointly conducted assessments remain capable of disaggregation to the local authority level, for circumstances involving a planning enquiry or appeal specific to that local authority area alone.
- iii) Assessment steering groups should involve representatives from Housing and Planning departments, from the local Gypsy and Traveller community, from the Gypsy and Traveller Service and other services which work closely with the Gypsy and Traveller community.
- iv) Consultation on the assessment should be undertaken with local agencies and the local Gypsy and Traveller community, perhaps by use of draft questionnaires.
- v) Gypsies and Travellers should be informed of the purpose of the survey, and how the resultant data will be used. Consent should be asked for use of the data, which should be stressed will not be attributable to individuals.
- vi) Surveys conducted in partnership should be managed by local authority staff, County Council staff, or consultants.
- vii) The assessment should also be informed by:
 - ODPM caravan count figures
 - local authority, private, and unauthorised site records
 - records kept by other agencies working with local Gypsy and Traveller communities

Summary of findings

15. 396 Gypsy and Traveller caravans were recorded in Norfolk in January 2006, at the time questionnaire forms were being collated. Of these 280 were authorised (with planning permission) and 116 were unauthorised (without planning permission).

16. Socially rented pitches were spread over Norfolk's five authorised sites, with a total of 104 pitches. All sites are managed by Norfolk Property Services (NPS) on behalf of Norfolk County Council, and have Gypsy/Traveller site managers/wardens. 44% of interviewees living on socially rented authorised sites had lived there for over five years. 22% had lived there for less than one year. 47% of the families represented occupied one caravan only. 53% occupied two caravans.

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17. 81 survey forms were completed, representing some 286 Gypsies and Travellers. The total number of Gypsies and Travellers living in all types of accommodation in Norfolk is estimated at around 2,000, of a possible 200,000 nationally.

18. 51% of all interviewees were aged between 20 and 40 years old. 80% of respondents described themselves as English Romany/Gypsy, 13% as New Travellers, and 4% as Irish Travellers. Two-thirds of interviewees were female, a third male. 58% were married or living with a partner, 38% were single. 75% indicated that they had dependent children living with them.

19. Only two interviewees were currently living in bricks and mortar accommodation, A further seventeen interviewees had previously lived in bricks and mortar accommodation, 59% for five years or more.

20. 26% of interviewees living on unauthorised sites claimed to have lived there for over 5 years. 26% had lived there for less than one year. 46% occupied one caravan only, 30% occupied two caravans. A further 24% in this category occupied three or more caravans.

21. 84% of interviewees were happy to be living where they were. For 77% a caravan was the first choice of accommodation. For 77% a caravan was the first choice of accommodation. 59% would prefer to own their own site, 28% a privately rented site, and 17% a socially rented site. Only 4% felt confident that they had sufficient means to purchase land, though a further 8% felt they may have enough.

22. 75% of interviewees would like to remain in the same geographical location, 10% would like to live elsewhere in Norfolk. 8% would like to live elsewhere in East Anglia, and 7% elsewhere in the UK. 47% of interviewees would prefer to live in or near to a town or city, 9% in or near to a village, and 44% in open countryside. The primary reason for interviewees travelling was to visit family and friends. The next most common reasons were, more or less equally; holidays, horse fairs, and work.

23. 43% of interviewees said they travel for less than one month each year. 18% said they travel for more than three months each year. 80% of journeys were made during the Spring and Summer, 20% in Autumn or Winter. 86% of interviewees said they travel to destinations outside of Norfolk. Almost half of these stop over at the roadside.

24. 94% of interviewees felt there were not enough stopping places. Seven interviewees felt there should be stopping places at specific locations, mostly on the Norwich periphery. The majority of interviewees felt that stopping places should have running water, toilet facilities, and an electricity supply.

25. 100% of interviewees said they were able to access nearby schools for their children, though some travelled distances of 7, 10, and even 18 miles.

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Perceptions of what is 'nearby' seemed to be at variance with norms of settled communities.

26. 21% of interviewees said they would consider joining focus groups which aimed to address accommodations and service needs.

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1 Ethnicity and Culture

1.1.1 The Caravan Sites and Development Act 1960 defined 'Gypsies' as 'persons of nomadic habit of life, whatever their race or religion', effectively recognising gypsies and travellers as a single diverse but connected community. Since then however, much work has been undertaken to identify distinct ethnic and cultural groups from the general terminology.

1.1.2 Gypsies, or English Romanies, were the largest of the identified groups in the assessment. Their ancestors migrated to Europe around AD1000 (with the first mention of Gypsies in England in 1514. Gypsies obtained racial status in 1976 under the Race Relations Act.

1.1.3 New travellers were the second largest of the groups identified in the assessment. New Travellers have been in evidence since the 1960s, although it was not until the 1980s that their numbers grew significantly.

1.1.4 Irish Travellers were the third largest of the groups identified in the assessment. Existing in Ireland as early as AD500, Irish Travellers were first recorded in England from around 1850 (Johnson, C., pp. 10-11).

1.1.5 Scottish Travellers were the smallest of the groups identified, while Welsh Travellers or 'Kale' did not feature at all. Scottish Travellers are not currently recognised as distinct ethnic groups, although efforts are being made to include them with Gypsies and Irish Travellers.

1.2 Health

1.2.1 The *Health Status of Gypsies and Travellers in England* report of 2004, published the following findings:

Gypsy Travellers have significantly poorer health status and significantly more self-reported symptoms of ill-health than other UK-resident, English speaking ethnic minorities and economically disadvantaged white UK residents.

For Gypsy Travellers, living in a house is associated with long term illness, poorer health state and anxiety. Those who rarely travel have the poorest health.

The state of health inequality between the study population and the UK general population is large, with reported health problems between twice and five times more prevalent.

Accommodation was the overriding factor, mentioned by every respondent, in the context of health effects... Other issues include security of tenure, access to services and ability to register with a GP, support and security of being close to extended family, a non-hazardous environment and the notion of freedom for the children.

Barriers to health care access were experienced, with several contributory causes, including reluctance of GPs to register Travellers or visit sites, practical problems of access while travelling ...

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The roles played by environmental hardship, social exclusion and cultural attitudes emerge from the qualitative study, and are consistent with the finding there is a health impact of being a Gypsy Traveller over and above other socio-demographic variables.

There is ... a need for local interagency working in relation to Travellers. For example, Directors of Public Health could be routinely invited to participate in Local Authority Planning forums that have an impact on Traveller health, for example, in planning accommodation for Travellers, and deciding on site evictions.

1.2.2 Other research has indicated that:

... even where Travellers do manage to access secure sites or to settle into housing, the effects of residence within a poor quality (typically roadside) environment over a period of many years may still leave a legacy of damaged health or untreated conditions that can lead to premature mortality or long-term morbidity (Clarke, C., 2006, p.185).

Whilst many health disadvantages could be minimised by access to authorised sites and a network of safe, appropriately serviced transit sites for highly mobile families, it is self-evident that unsited Travellers, whether permanently located within a small area or passing through a locality, require adequate access to primary health services to enable treatment of minor injuries, referrals for medical investigations and treatment, and equality of access to preventative care (*ibid.*, p.186)

1.3 Education

1.3.1 The 2001 Ofsted report *Managing Support for the Attainment of Pupils from Minority Ethnic Groups* noted that:

The monitoring of Gypsy Traveller pupils' achievement by LEA services provided evidence of some marked improvements, particularly at the primary stage. Access, attendance and achievement were, however, still a serious concern in the secondary phase (p.34).

For a significant proportion of pupils from Gypsy Traveller families, educational discontinuity was a major contributory factor to under-achievement (p. 35)

Many sites provided for Gypsy Traveller families are located either some distance from schools and or on marginal land which represents major environmental; and health dangers to the residents (p.36).

... positive efforts by Traveller education services to fulfil the LEA's statutory responsibilities were sometimes at odds with the practice in the eviction of the families. In a number of cases, decisions by authorities appeared not to take into account adequately the educational and other needs of the children in these circumstances (p.37)

In about half of the LEAs in which services were inspected there was a growing trend among Traveller families to opt for education other than at school (that is, education at home), particularly in the secondary phase (p.37)

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1.3.2 Ofsted's 2003 report *Provision and support for Traveller pupils* noted that:

The average attendance rate for Traveller pupils is around 75%. This figure is well below the national average and is the worst attendance profile on any minority ethnic group (p.5)

Many authorities have clear statements about the inclusion of all pupils in education. However, in too many authorities, the ways in which they deal with unauthorised encampments contradict the principles set out in their public statements on inclusion, educational entitlement and race equality. Such contradictions underline relationships and inhibit the effectiveness of the Traveller Education Support Services and other agencies (p.5)

The vast majority of Traveller pupils linger on the periphery of the education system. The situation has persisted too long and the alarm bells rung in earlier reports have yet to be heeded (p.6)

1.3.3 Other research had shown that:

... with unplanned moves due to constant evictions, families without a secure pitch on a local authority or private site will have difficulty in accessing regular schooling for their children (Clarke, C., 2006, p.227).

1.4 Recent Legislation and Guidance

1.4.1 The Caravan Sites Act 1968 stipulated that it was the duty of county council, London Borough, or (in Wales) a county borough to exercise their powers under Caravan Sites and Control and Development Act (CSCDA) 1960 s24 to 'provide adequate accommodation for gypsies residing in or resorting to their area' (CSA 1968, s6). The CSA 1968 placed an obligation on county councils to determine what sites were to be provided and to acquire the land (ss.7,8) The district councils were obliged to exercise the other powers under CSCDA s24, and particularly the management of sites. The county councils were also expected to fix the charges made by the district councils for their provision and to pay the district councils and to pay the district councils any shortfall between their expenditure and receipts (CSA 1968, s.7)

1.4.2 *The Criminal Justice and Public Order Act* of 1994 repealed the duty of provision placed on authorities in 1968. The only powers left remaining under the 1968 act were those under s24:

(1) A local authority shall have power within their area to provide sites where caravans may be brought, whether for holidays or some other temporary purposes or for use as permanent residences, and to manage the sites or lease them to some other person.

(2) ... a local authority shall have power to do anything appearing to them desirable in connection with such sites.

The act left authorities with the *power* but not the *duty* to provide sites.

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1.4.3 The Department of the Environment (DoE) Circular 18/9 envisaged the continuance of the existing network of sites after the repeal of the CSA 1968 duty, advising local authorities that:

The Secretaries of State consider it appropriate that authorities should maintain their existing gypsy caravan sites, or should make suitable arrangements for their maintenance by leasing them to other persons who are willing and able to maintain them (para.21).

It also laid out the expectation that additional sites would be provided:

The Secretaries of State also expect authorities to continue whether it is appropriate to provide further permanent caravan sites for gypsies in their areas (para.22).

1.4.4 The Human Rights Act 1998 provided two Convention rights of particular importance to Gypsies and Travellers:

a) article 8 provides that:

(1) Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence.

(2) There shall be no interference by a public authority with the exercise of this right except such as in accordance with the law and is necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public safety or the economic wellbeing of the country, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

b) article 14 provides that:

The enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set forth in this Convention shall be secured without discrimination on any ground such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status.

1.4.5 Circular 01/2006 'Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Sites' came into effect in February 2006, replacing Circular 1/94, which the ODPM recognises has failed to deliver adequate sites for gypsies and travellers. The main intentions of the new Circular are:

a) to create and support sustainable, respectful and inclusive communities where gypsies and travellers have fair access to suitable accommodation, education, health and welfare provision, where there is mutual respect and consideration between all communities for the rights and responsibilities of each community and individual; and where there is respect between individuals and communities towards the environments in which they live and work;

b) to reduce the number of unauthorised encampments and developments and the conflict and controversy they cause and to make enforcement more effective where local authorities have complied with the guidance in this Circular;

c) to increase significantly the number of gypsy and traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission in order to address under-provision over the next 3 - 5 years;

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- d) to recognise, protect and facilitate the traditional travelling way of life of gypsies and travellers, whilst respecting the interests of the settled community;
- e) to underline the importance of assessing needs at regional and sub-regional level and for local authorities to develop strategies to ensure that needs are dealt with fairly and effectively;
- f) to identify and make provision for the resultant land and accommodation requirements;
- g) to ensure that DPDs include fair, realistic and inclusive policies and to ensure identified need is dealt with fairly and effectively;
- h) to promote more private gypsy and traveller site provision in appropriate locations through the planning system, while recognising that there will always be those who cannot afford to buy their own sites; and
- i) to help to avoid gypsies and travellers becoming homeless through eviction from unauthorised sites without an alternative to move to (p.4).

2 GYPSY AND TRAVELLER NUMBERS, NATIONALLY AND LOCALLY

2.1 Estimates given for total numbers of Gypsies and Travellers living in England vary. The Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) estimates the number of to be between 2-300,000. Other sources. These estimates take into account families of Gypsy descent who now live in bricks and mortar accommodation.

2.2 The DCLG Caravan Count gives the following statistics for Gypsies and Travellers living in caravans in England (appendix 3):

	Authorised sites (with planning permission)		Unauthorised sites (without planning permission)				
	No. of caravans	No. of caravans	No. of caravans on sites on Gypsies' own land		No. of caravans on sites not owned by Gypsies		
	Socially rented	Private	Tolerated	Not tolerated	Tolerated	Not tolerated	Total: all caravans
Jan 06	6,636	5,838	714	1,440	438	680	15,746
Jul 05	6,454	5,371	599	1,340	673	1,426	15,863
Jan 05	6,427	5,502	624	1,515	513	788	15,369
Jul 04	5,979	4,908	530	1,325	593	1,784	15,119
Jan 04	5,913	4,927	610	1,367	573	1,021	14,411

Broken down, average caravan numbers in each region over the last five counts are as follows:

North East	North West	Yorks & Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East	London	South East	South West
475	1,250	1,330	1,223	1,531	3,879	830	2,874	1,909

The figures indicate that 25% of Gypsy and Traveller caravans in England are located in the Eastern Region.

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2.3 DCLG Caravan Count statistics for the Eastern region (appendix 4) are as follows:

	Authorised sites (with planning permission)		Unauthorised sites (without planning permission)				
	No. of caravans	No. of caravans	No. of caravans on sites on Gypsies' own land		No. of caravans on sites not owned by Gypsies		
	Socially rented	Private	Tolerated	Not tolerated	Tolerated	Not tolerated	Total: all caravans
Jan 06	1,370	1,675	200	651	70	78	4,044
Jul 05	1,382	1,430	196	647	98	227	3,980
Jan 05	1,352	1,507	207	656	63	130	3,915
Jul 04	1,119	1,381	121	701	102	364	3,788
Jan 04	1,124	1,373	175	747	127	123	3,669

Within the Eastern region average caravan numbers in each Authority over the last five counts are as follows:

Beds	Cambs	Essex	Herts	Luton UA	Norfolk	P'boro UA	Southeast UA	Suffolk	Thurrock
261	1,204	1,001	435	39	387	114	0	272	166

The figures indicate that 10% of Gypsy and Traveller caravans in the Eastern region are located in Norfolk.

2.4 Caravan Counts figures for Norfolk (appendix 4) over the last five counts are as follows:

	Authorised sites (with planning permission)		Unauthorised sites (without planning permission)				
	No. of caravans	No. of caravans	No. of caravans on sites on Gypsies' own land		No. of caravans on sites not owned by Gypsies		
	Socially rented	Private	Tolerated	Not tolerated	Tolerated	Not tolerated	Total: all caravans
Jan 06	136	144	22	23	55	16	396
Jul 05	131	117	31	14	70	65	428
Jan 05	129	116	36	18	21	56	376
Jul 04	102	127	24	19	35	88	395
Jan 04	96	131	32	22	52	7	340

The figures indicate an average of 387 caravans in the County over the last five six-monthly counts. Numbers are fractionally higher in the Summer than in the Winter. While the caravan count is considered to be reasonably accurate, it does not take into account Gypsies and Traveller living in bricks and mortar accommodation.

Norfolk totals are broken down by district as follows:

Breckland	Broadland	G Yarmouth	Kings Lynn & W Norfolk	North Norfolk	Norwich	South Norfolk
49	13	15	183	6	34	91

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2.5 Socially rented pitches are spread across five sites in Norfolk, sites leased by Norfolk County Council from the district authorities in which they are located. Current provision is as follows:

Site	Ownership	Managed by	Warden/Site Manager	Number of pitches
Gapton Hall, Great Yarmouth	Great Yarmouth BC	Norfolk Property Services (NPS)	Gypsy/Traveller site manager/s	19
Swanton Road, Norwich	Norwich City Council	NPS	Gypsy/Traveller site manager/s	18
Roundwell, Costessey	South Norfolk Council	NPS	Gypsy/Traveller site manager/s	17
Saddlebow Rd, Kings Lynn	Kings Lynn BC	NPS	Gypsy/Traveller site manager/s	27
Splashes, Swaffham	Breckland Council	NPS	Gypsy/Traveller site manager/s	23

2.6 Information collected from the needs surveys has more qualitative than quantitative. While the GTLG partnership agreed that every family known to the authorities should be offered interviews, it was to be expected that some would be missed due to being in transit at the time of the surveys. Others were not been at home when interviewers called, still others were unwilling to be interviewed.

2.7 Of the recorded 396 caravans in Norfolk at the time of the survey, 81 questionnaires were completed, representing around 21%. However, bearing in mind that many Gypsy and Traveller families would have more than one caravan, the actual response percentage is likely to be significantly higher.

Questionnaires completed per district were as follows:

Breckland	Broadland	G Yarmouth	Kings Lynn & W Norfolk	North Norfolk	Norwich	South Norfolk
11	2	6	23	2	7	30

2.8 It has been previously stated that housed Gypsy and Traveller families can be very difficult to trace. One reason is that until recently the majority of Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) and other service providers have not monitored Gypsy and Traveller applicants accessing their services. Another significant factor is that Gypsies and Travellers have been reluctant to identify themselves as such for fear of discrimination. Accordingly, only two of the families interviewed were currently in bricks and mortar accommodation.

2.9 The working group anticipated the need to quantify the needs of Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar accommodation, which the final guidance later clarified. Interviewees were difficult to trace, as very few Registered Social Landlords identified them as distinct ethnic groups, and Gypsies and Travellers using mainstream services are often reluctant to self-identify. It has been estimated that as many as 200,000 Travellers live in housing across the UK (Clarke, C., 2006.p.11)

2.10 Numbering some 21-25,000 nationally, showpeople form a significant proportion of the travelling communities of Norfolk. Although housing authorities have a responsibility to assess their accommodation needs as with other groups, they are not recognised as 'gypsy and traveller' communities, so do not form part of this assessment.

2.11 Several River Travellers, or Bargees, were living in Norfolk at the time of the survey. However, no-one from this group agreed to be interviewed or completed a form.

2.12 While there have been some reports of Eastern European Roma relocating to the UK, none of those interviewed were from these groups. It is likely that any such communities moving to Norfolk would be in bricks and mortar accommodation, as they rarely travel in their countries of origin, and none have been recorded travelling in Norfolk. Numbers of Roma in the UK are estimated to be 4-5000 (*ibid.* p.17).

3 FAMILY COMPOSITION

3.1 Gender

Interviewees were asked to indicate their gender

Of 65 respondents

32.5% were male

67.5% were female

3.2 Age Range of interviewees

Interviewees were asked to indicate which age range they belonged to

Of 81 respondents:

14% were under 20 years old

29% were aged between 20 and 30 years old

22% were aged between 31 and 40 years old

6% were aged between 41 and 50 years old

9% were aged between 51 and 60 years old

4% were aged 61 years old or older

3.3 Ethnicity

Interviewees were asked: "Would you describe yourself as: English Gypsy/Romany; Irish Traveller; New Traveller; Scottish Traveller; Welsh Gypsy; Showman; or Other?"

Of 73 respondents:

80% described themselves as English Gypsy/Romany
4% described themselves as Irish Traveller
13% described themselves as New Traveller
1% described themselves as Scottish Traveller
1% described themselves as Welsh Gypsy
1% described themselves as Showman

3.4 Marital status

Interviewees were asked to indicate their marital status

Of 71 respondents

38% indicated that they were single
41% indicated that they were married
17% indicated that they were living with a partner
3% indicated that they were divorced
1% indicated that they were widowed

3.5 Dependent children

Interviewees were asked:

a) “Do you have children living with you?”

Of 75 respondents:

75% recorded children living with them.
25% recorded no children living with them

b) “If yes, what ages are they?”

156 children were recorded in total, giving an average of just under two children per family unit. Of these:

19% of were under 5 years of age
21% were aged 5 to 10
14% were aged 11 to 18
46% did not have ages stated

c) “Do they live with you: All of the time, or Some of the time?”

Of 49 respondents:

82% said their children lived with them all of the time
18% said their children lived with them some of the time

3.6 Other adults living within family groups

Interviewees were asked:

a) “Do other adults live with you?”

Of 17 respondents:

12% of families had other adults living with them

b) “If yes, are they related to you?”

Of 10 respondents:

100% of other adults living with family groups were related

4 BRICKS AND MORTAR ACCOMMODATION

4.1 Gypsies and Travellers currently living in bricks and mortar accommodation

Interviewees were asked: “If you live in a house:”

a) “Is it a: House; Bungalow; Flat; Bedsit, or Other?”

Of two respondents:

Both lived in houses

b) “How long have you lived there?”

Of two respondents:

One had lived there for seven months,
The other for eight months

c) “Who owns the house?”

Of two respondents:

Both houses were socially rented in North Norfolk

d) “Why did you move into a house?”

Of two respondents:

.....

e) "Are you glad you moved into a house?"

Of two respondents:

One was glad to have moved into a house

The other was not

4.2 Respondents previously living in bricks and mortar accommodation

Interviewees were asked:

a) "How many houses have you lived in?"

Of 17 respondents who had previously lived in bricks and mortar accommodation:

18% had lived in one house

35% had lived in two houses

0% had lived in three houses

12% had lived in four houses

12% had lived in five houses

23% indicated they had lived in houses 'several' times

b) "How many years in total have you lived in houses?"

Of the seventeen respondents who had previously lived in bricks and mortar accommodation:

41% had spent 1 to 4 years in housing

18% had spent 5 to 10 years in housing

41% had spent more than 10 years in housing

4.3 Ownership of bricks and mortar accommodation

c) "Who owned the houses?"

Of nineteen respondents currently and previously living in bricks and mortar accommodation:

42% live/d in socially rented accommodation

16% live/d in privately rented accommodation

42% live/d in privately owned property

d) "Why did you leave?"

.....

e) "When did you leave?"

.....

5 GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS LIVING ON SITES

5.1 Authorised Sites

Interviewees living on authorised sites were asked:

a) “Who owns the site?”

All authorised sites are local authority owned and managed.

b) “How long have you lived there?”

41 interviewees (representing just over 50% of the survey) lived on authorised sites owned by the local authority. Of these:

22% had lived there for less than one year

19% had lived there for 1 to 2 years

15% had lived there for 3 to 5 years

44% had lived there for over 5 years

c) “How many caravans or mobile dwellings do you occupy?”

Of 41 respondents:

47% occupied one caravan

53% occupied two caravans

d) “How many other families live on the site?”

Responses were only given for socially rented sites, for which figures have previously been given.

e) “Do you pay rent?”

Of 41 respondents, 100% paid rent for their pitch.

f) “If yes, how much?”

Weekly rent levels were given only on socially rented sites. Figures are as below:

Gapton Hall, G Yarmouth	Swanton Rd, Norwich	Roundwell, Costessey	Saddlebow Rd., Kings Lynn	Splashes, Swaffham
£40	£40	£50	£50	£40

5.2 Unauthorised sites

Residents of unauthorised sites were asked:

a) “How long have you lived there?”

Of 31 respondents living on unauthorised sites:

26% had resided there for up to one year
38% had resided there for one to two years
10% had resided there for three to five years
26% had resided there for over five years

b) “Have you been told to leave the site?”

Of nine respondents:

Six said they had been told to leave the site
Three said they had not

c) “If yes, by what date?”

Dates were not specified

d) “How many caravans or mobile dwellings do you occupy?”

Of 33 respondents living on unauthorised sites:

46% owned one caravan
30% owned two caravans
21% owned three caravans
3% owned four caravans

e) “How many other families on site?”

Of 18 respondents

From one to six other families were identified as living on site, with an average of one other family. Many of these families were extended family groups.

f) “Do you have the right to a pitch elsewhere?”

Of eight respondents:

All said they had no right to occupy a pitch elsewhere

5.3 Access to utilities and other services on unauthorised sites

Interviewees were asked if they had access to Fresh water, Hot water, Heating, Toilet facilities, and Refuse collection.

Of 35 respondents:

- 21 had access to fresh water
- 11 had access to hot water
- 20 had some form of heating
- 24 had toilet facilities
- 23 were provided with refuse collection

6 ACCOMMODATION ASPIRATIONS

6.1 Satisfaction with existing accommodation

Interviewees were asked:

a) “Are you happy living where you are?”

Of 81 respondents living on both authorised and unauthorised sites:

- 84% were happy living where they were
- 16% were unhappy to be living where they were

b) “Do you have enough space?”

.....

c) “What could be done to improve it?”

.....

6.2 Preferred accommodation types

Interviewees were asked:

a) “Given the choice, what kind of accommodation would you like to live in?”

Of 81 respondents living on both authorised and unauthorised sites:

- 14% would prefer to live in a house
- 77% would prefer to live in a caravan
- 9% would prefer to live in other types of accommodation.

b) “Would you like to live on: Own land; Privately owned site, Local authority site, or Other?”

Of 81 respondents (living on both authorised and unauthorised sites):

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59% would prefer to own their own site
28% would prefer to live on a privately owned site
17% would prefer to live on a local authority site

c) "Do you have enough money to buy land or a home?"

Of 51 respondents:

4% said they had sufficient means to purchase land
88% said they did not have sufficient funds to purchase land
8% felt they may have sufficient funds to purchase land

d) "Do you have a disability or sickness that would affect the kind of home you could live in?"

Of 80 respondents:

10% said they had a sickness or disability that would affect the type of home they could live in 90% said they did not have a sickness or disability that would affect the type of home they could live in.

e) "Do you have pets or livestock that would affect the type of home you could live in?"

.....

f) "How many motor vehicles would you need space for?"

Of 64 respondents:

23% said they needed space for one vehicle
61% said they needed space for two vehicles
5% said they needed space for three vehicles
5% said they needed space for four vehicles
5% said they needed space for five vehicles
1% said the space need for vehicles was variable

g) "Do you have work equipment you need space for?"

.....

6.3 Preferred geographical location

Interviewees were asked:

a) "Where would you most like to live?"

Of 77 respondents:

75% would like to remain in their current location

10% would like to live in another part of Norfolk
8% would like to live in another part of East Anglia
7% would like to live elsewhere in the UK.

b) "In what kind of location?"

Of 70 respondents:

47% would prefer to live in or near to a town or city
9% would prefer to live in or near to a village
44% would prefer to live in open countryside

7 TRAVELLING PATTERNS

7.1 Frequency of travelling

Interviewees were asked: "How many times do you go travelling in a normal year?"

Of 68 respondents:

59% travelled up to three times a year
15% travelled up four to six times a year
9% travelled more than six times a year
17% do not travel

7.2 Reasons for travelling

Interviewees were asked: "Why do you travel?"

42 respondents travel to visit family and friends
24 respondents travel for work purposes
26 respondents travel to horse fairs
3 respondents travel for religious events
27 respondents travel for take holidays
7 respondents travel for other reasons

Figures here are given as numbers rather than percentages as many respondents gave multiple answers.

7.3 Time spent travelling

Interviewees were asked: "How many months do you travel each year?"

Of 56 respondents:

43% said they travel for less than one month each year
36% said they travel for one to three months each year

18% said they travel for more than three months each year
2% said the time they travel varies each year

7.4 Trip duration

Interviewees were asked: "How long are you usually away each trip?"

Of 53 respondents:

57% said they were normally away for less than a month each trip
34% said they were normally away for one to three months each trip
7% said they were normally away for more than three months each trip
2% said the duration of trips was variable

7.5 Seasonal trends

Interviewees were asked: "What time/s of year do you tend to travel?"

25 respondents said they travel in Spring
55 respondents said they travel in Summer
14 respondents said they travel in Autumn
5 respondents said they travel in Winter

Figures here are given as numbers rather than percentages as many respondents gave multiple answers.

7.6 Travel destinations

Interviewees were asked: "Where do you usually travel?"

14 respondents said they travel to destinations within Norfolk
24 respondents said they travel to destinations within East Anglia
46 respondents said they travel to destinations throughout the UK
5 respondents said they travel to overseas destinations

Figures here are given as numbers rather than percentages as many respondents gave multiple answers.

8. STOPPING PLACES

8.1 Current stopping places

Interviewees were asked "Where do you normally stop over?"

Of 75 respondents:

48% normally stop at the roadside when travelling
20% normally stop on Gypsy/Traveller sites when travelling

25% normally stop at holiday caravan sites when travelling
7% normally stop at other locations when travelling

8.2 Locations of stopping places used in Norfolk

Interviewees were asked: "Which roadsides or other sites do you use in Norfolk?"

.....

8.3 Amount of stopping places in Norfolk

Interviewees were asked:

a) "Do you think there are enough stopping places in Norfolk?"

Of 72 respondents:

6% thought there were enough stopping places in Norfolk
94% thought there were not enough

b) "If no, where do you think places should be provided?"

Of 7 respondents:

One respondent thought there should be stopping places in Thetford and/or South Norfolk

Six respondents thought there should be stopping places on the outskirts of Norwich

8.4 Stopping place facilities

Interviewees were asked: What facilities should be available at stopping places?

66 respondents said running water should be provided
64 respondents said toilets should be provided
61 respondents said electricity should be provided
6 respondents said shower facilities should be provided
17 respondents said rubbish collection should be provided
2 respondents said laundry facilities should be provided

Figures here are given as numbers rather than percentages as many respondents gave multiple answers.

8.5 Charges for use of short stay stopping places

Interviewees were asked: "What do you think would be a reasonable daily charge per caravan?"

Of sixteen respondents:

Answers ranged from zero to £10 per day, with an average of £4.50.

9 ACCESS TO SERVICES

9.1 School attendance

Interviewees were asked: "If you have children, are they able to attend nearby schools?"

Of 41 respondents, 100% said they were able to access nearby schools

Interviewees were asked "How far do you have to travel?"

Of 10 respondents, miles to school varied from one to 18 miles, with an average of 4.7 miles.

9.2 Medical services

Interviewees were asked: "Are you able to register with a local doctor?"

Of 74 respondents:

92% said they were able to register
8% said they were unable to register

Groups that travel frequently reported the most difficulty in accessing medical services. It is probable that a Summer survey, when more families are on the move, would have highlighted more difficulties in registering with local GPs.

9.3 Permanent housing related support

Interviewees were asked: If you were moving into permanent housing:

a) would you require help to fill in housing application forms?

.....

b) would you require help to apply for housing or other benefits?

.....

9.4 Planning aid/support

Interviewees were asked: "If you purchased your own land would you require support applying for planning permission?"

Of 57 respondents:

85% said they would need support
15% said they would not need support

11 CONSULTATION

11.1 Survey results

Interviewees were asked: "Would you like to be informed of the results of this survey?"

Of 77 respondents:

45% said they would like to be informed
55% said they would not like to be informed

11.2 Accommodation focus group

Interviewees were asked: "Would you like to join a focus group to help you and other Gypsies and Travellers find suitable accommodation?"

Of 75 respondents:

21% said they would be interested in joining a focus group
79% said they would not be interested in planning processes.