



Rushmoor Gypsy
& Traveller
Accommodation
Assessment

Final Report

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UNITED
KINGDOM &
IRELAND



Prepared for:
Rushmoor Borough Council

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1 INTRODUCTION

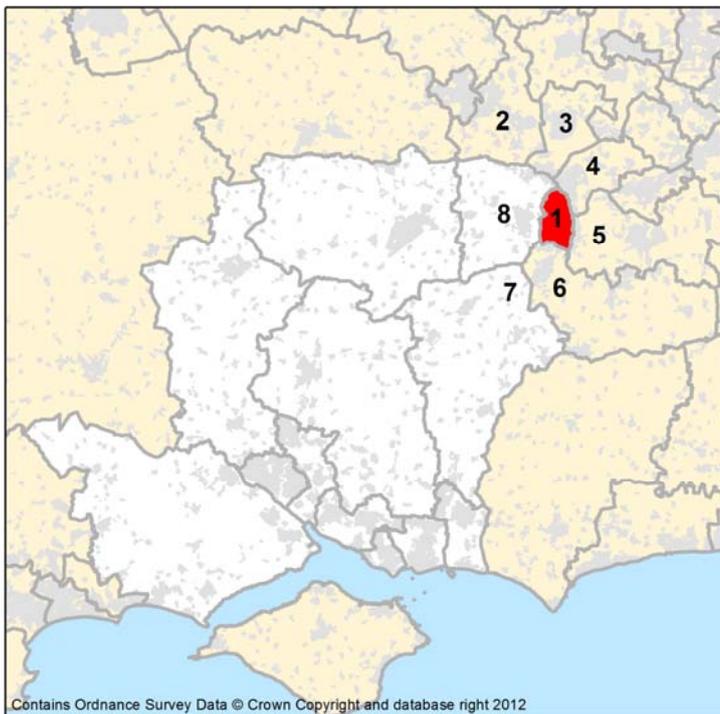
1.1 Context

1.1.1 This report is an independent assessment of the need for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation in the period 2012 - 2017. The assessment has been undertaken by the Strategic Planning team at URS, based on survey work undertaken by Rushmoor Borough Council.

1.1.2 Previous evidence based studies¹ have demonstrated that there is a need for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation in Rushmoor Borough. Given the time that has elapsed since these studies it is now necessary to appraise more recent evidence in respect of the need to make provision for traveller’s sites in Rushmoor Borough.

1.2 About Rushmoor

Figure 1: The location of the Borough of Rushmoor within Hampshire



1: Rushmoor; 2: Wokingham; 2: Bracknell Forest; 4: Surrey Heath;
5: Guildford; 6: Waverley; 7: East Hampshire; 8: Hart

¹ DCA (2006) 'Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight' and Hampshire Strategic Officers' Group (2008) 'Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment for Hampshire, Southampton, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight'

1.2.1 Rushmoor is a small urban authority (3,905 ha) in North East Hampshire, adjacent to the Surrey and Berkshire borders. It is densely populated (93,800 residents in the 2011 Census²) with a well defined built-up area made up of two major settlements whose boundaries are contiguous.

1.2.2 Aldershot lies to the south of the Borough, and Farnborough to the north. Aldershot is famous for being the home of the British Army whilst Farnborough is renowned as the birthplace of British aviation. The northern and eastern parts of the Borough are mainly urban in character, whilst the land in the west has, in general, an international, national or local nature conservation designation, is made up of Ministry of Defence training land, or forms part of Farnborough Airport. The Borough is bounded on the east by the Blackwater Valley relief road.

1.3 Definitions

1.3.1 The following terms are used in this report:

Site: A Gypsy and Traveller site is an area where Gypsies and Travellers live. A site may contain a number of pitches.

Pitch: A pitch is the space occupied by one household and their vehicles.

Yard: The Travelling Showpeople equivalent of a site.

Plot: The Travelling Showpeople equivalent of a pitch.

1.4 Local planning policy

1.4.1 Rushmoor Borough Council's Core Strategy was adopted in October 2011. Paragraph 8.83 notes that "The Rushmoor Plan documents must provide for the needs of all sectors of the community, including those of gypsies and travellers and travelling showpeople".

1.4.2 Policy CP7 – Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople states that:

The Council will safeguard existing sites for travelling showpeople. Where additional local need is demonstrated for new sites for gypsies and travellers and travelling showpeople, including transit sites, planning permission will be granted or sites allocated to meet this need provided that the following criteria are met:

a. Provision is made for safe and convenient access onto the highway network;

b. The proposals will not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the amenity of adjoining property and uses;

c. The proposal will not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the physical and visual character of areas of acknowledged importance;

d. The site can accommodate on-site facilities, appropriate to its scale.

1.4.3 The Council will monitor the supply and delivery of provision to ensure that locally identified needs are being met.

² When the full Census 2011 results are published, a more complete picture of the gypsy population may be revealed. The 2011 Census is the first Census where there was "Gypsy or Irish Traveller" tick box in the questionnaire, and results will be shown on table KS201EW: Ethnic group.

- 1.4.4 This Policy was prepared on the basis of the evidence which informed the preparation of the Core Strategy, and recognised the need to protect existing sites for travelling showpeople based on local need. In respect of gypsies and travellers, given that Rushmoor Borough does not have any existing gypsy and traveller sites, the Policy is criteria based to enable the identification of sites, or the determination of planning applications, should a need for such sites be demonstrated over the Plan period.
- 1.4.5 The Monitoring chapter of the Core Strategy includes no net loss of yards for travelling showpeople as one of its targets, both on an annual basis and over the plan period to 2027.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Choice of approach

2.1.1 This report has been prepared to meet the expectations of the following two national policy and guidance documents.

Planning policy for traveller sites³ (DCLG, 2012)

2.1.2 This Government policy document requires local authorities to make their own assessment of Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople needs for the purposes of planning. In doing so, it calls upon them to use evidence and to plan positively for such developments. Specifically, it calls upon local authorities to:

- 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);
- 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;
- Use a robust evidence base to establish accommodation needs to inform the preparation of local plans and make planning decisions;
- Set pitch targets for Gypsies and Travellers and plot targets for travelling showpeople which address the likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs of travellers in their area;
- Identify and update annually, a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide five years' worth of sites against their locally set targets;
- Identify a supply of specific, developable sites or broad locations for growth, for years six to ten and, where possible, for years 11-15

Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Guidance⁴ (DCLG, 2007)

2.1.3 This guidance document provides details of best practice when conducting a Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs assessment. This guidance has therefore formed the basis of this assessment in order to ensure that a robust evidence base is established. In particular, it suggests that:

- Some secondary information that is currently held by local authorities or other agencies can be used to inform the assessment; and
- It is recommended that the local authority or partnership conduct a specialist survey and/or qualitative research to obtain further more detailed information.

³ Available online at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/2113371.pdf> (accessed 06/2012)

⁴ Available online at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/accommneedsassessments.pdf> (accessed 06/2012)

2.1.4 Details of both of these areas of research are set out below.

2.2 Secondary information

2.2.1 The following secondary sources of information were consulted during the course of the assessment:

- Waiting list for the two nearby local authority sites (Star Hill & Penny Hill, both in Hart District, provided by Hampshire County Council);
- Housing waiting list information, where this shows people are Gypsies or Travellers;
- Hampshire County Council data on unauthorised encampments, as supplied by Rushmoor Borough Council;
- Planning data on private authorised sites;
- Planning data on unauthorised sites;
- Planning data on any planning applications for Gypsy or Traveller sites which have been refused permission over the past five years;
- Outcomes of any planning appeals and those where enforcement action has been taken over the past five years;
- Current planning applications within the Borough awaiting determination; and
- Biannual gypsy and traveller caravan counts for the Borough.

2.3 Stakeholder engagement

2.3.1 The following agencies have inputted into the production of this report:

- Hampshire County Council Gypsy Liaison Office and Head of Planning
- Neighbouring local authorities: Guildford, Surrey Heath, Waverley, Basingstoke & Deane, Hart, Chichester, Winchester, West Sussex, Test Valley, East Hampshire, Eastleigh
- Registered Providers (housing associations)
- Gypsy Council
- Showmen's Guild

2.4 Specialist survey

The survey work was carried out in early 2012 in two phases. The details of the survey work are set out below.

Phase 1: Desktop Study

2.4.1 Officers at Rushmoor Borough Council (RBC) undertook a desktop review of published documentation, policy and statistics relating or relevant to Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in the Rushmoor area, as well as two sites in Guildford Borough close to the Rushmoor boundary, and consulted with relevant stakeholders such as the Showmen's Guild.

2.4.2 Officers collected information from local stakeholders, including Council Officers at Rushmoor Borough Council, neighbouring authorities including the Hampshire GTAA Group (7 local authorities – East Hampshire, Eastleigh, Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Test Valley & Winchester), Hampshire County Council (HCC), Hampshire and LA Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officers, Community Safety Officer (Guildford BC)). Information was also sought from Registered Housing Providers with large stock in Rushmoor, The Showmen's Guild of Great Britain (Western Section and London and the Home Counties Section), FFT (Friends, Families and Travellers) and others who work with Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. The information sought included:

- Information on population size and / or movement of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople – data obtained from RBC Planning, Environmental Health, Council Tax, Housing Benefit, and Housing Options Team (HOTs); HCC and Registered Providers with large stock in Rushmoor;
- Information was also requested from other local authorities who are currently carrying out GTAA or have carried out surveys in the past e.g. the Hampshire GTAA group, Hart DC, Basingstoke and Deane BC, and Guildford BC. Officers requested the information/findings from the studies undertaken by these local authorities, and the neighbouring Guildford authorities to enable us to consider cross boundary movements of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, and to help ensure that the GTAA is as robust as possible;
- An illegal transit encampment was identified through the RBC Environmental Health Team; information on illegal encampment over the last four years was also obtained from the Hampshire County Council Gypsy Liaison Officer;
- At the time of the desktop study, the Hampshire GTAA Group had not finalised their questionnaire, whilst Basingstoke & Deane BC had completed interviews and analysis, but had to complete their final report. The latter had not come across anyone in the borough who had expressed an interest in moving to Rushmoor;
- At the time of the desktop study, Hart DC had carried out the interviews but were waiting to undertake an analysis of the findings. However, the results of the surveys showed no expression of interest in moving to Rushmoor;
- Numbers from Registered Housing Providers (RPs) are either not available (not collected), or very low because residents self select the categories provided on ethnicity. Many of the Gypsy and Traveller residents who live in bricks and mortar do not select Gypsy and Travellers on the requisite form;
- Homeless presentations if they indicate Gypsies and Travellers – data sought from RBC Housing Option Team (HOT);
- Re-housing data which monitors the re-housing of Gypsies and Travellers – information obtained from RBC Housing Options Team and RPs;

- Housing waiting list information if information on the numbers of Gypsies and Travellers is available on the list – information obtained from RBC HOT;
- Movement of Gypsies and Travellers from permanent housing – HOT and RPs;
- Data on private authorised sites, including information on the number of caravans permitted on each site, whether the planning permission was granted on a permanent or temporary basis, and whether it restricted occupancy to named individuals; obtained from RBC's planning department.

Phase 2 – Research by interview

- 2.4.3 Phase 2 of the study supplemented the desktop study by undertaking research by interview and survey with Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in the Borough, and in the neighbouring Borough of Guildford where sites are located close to Rushmoor Borough's boundary.
- 2.4.4 Interview questions were designed after consultation with the working group⁵ and key stakeholders. Whilst a single questionnaire was adopted for interviewing Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, this was based on a semi-structured 'qualitative' approach centred on a number of 'key questions'. However, as it is recognised that Travelling Showpeople do not share the same culture or tradition of Gypsy and Travellers (of which there are various ethnic groups), an interpretive approach was required when interviewing based on the one questionnaire. A copy of the questionnaire is included at Appendix A of this report.
- 2.4.5 A target number of interviews was identified for each type of accommodation e.g. authorised developments, side of road, conventional housing. Rushmoor Borough has four authorised sites for Travelling Showpeople. Two authorised Gypsy and Traveller sites are located in Guildford Borough, on the boundary of Guildford BC and Rushmoor BC. Officers from both Rushmoor and Guildford Borough Councils worked together to facilitate the research by interview on these sites in neighbouring Guildford Borough.
- 2.4.6 The questionnaire aimed to:
- Gather information on current tenure types and aspirations/future needs, plus tenure preferences for caravan dwelling/movement between housing and caravans;
 - Ascertain attitudes to current site provision; presence on unauthorised encampments;
 - Gather data on household composition and demography including patterns of extended family living;
 - Identify migration patterns and transient settlement patterns;
 - Gather information on employment trends and barriers to accessing training and education opportunities.

⁵ This working group included Rushmoor Borough Council Officers with knowledge of the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities, Officers from Hampshire County Council, representatives of the Gypsy and Traveller communities, and other key stakeholders such as neighbouring local authorities.

- 2.4.7 In undertaking the surveys, a qualitative approach was used, taking into account cultural sensitivities, for example, women may not wish to answer questions, or speak to a male researcher.
- 2.4.8 In respect of gypsies and travellers, Officers from Rushmoor and Guildford Borough Councils spent time with Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officers, site managers, community officers and Lead Families on site. This time prior to the survey work was spent with a leading household on each site to explain the purpose of the questionnaire build up a relationship and gain trust, and for that family to introduce interviewers to other households on the site. When interviewing Gypsies and Travellers, the preference was for the women to answer the questions.
- 2.4.9 Similarly, with the Travelling Showpeople, the first visit was simply to give advice on the purpose of the survey and arrange an appointment to call back if the families were unable to complete the questionnaire at the time of the first visit. Further follow up visits were made to collect and complete the questionnaires. When interviewing the Travelling Showpeople, both the men and women were happy to answer questions. However, if they had adult sons and daughters, they preferred them to answer on behalf of the family.
- 2.4.10 Table 1 below summarises the organisations and people consulted in preparing the GTAA. This is followed by Table 2 which sets out the sites visited in preparing the GTAA.

Table 1: Summary of organisations & people consulted for information

Consultee	Details	Number of potential interviewees identified
<p>Rushmoor Borough Council Officers including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council Tax - Housing Benefit Team - Housing Options Team - Planning - Environmental Health 	<p>Does not collect any ethnic information, including Gypsies, Travellers or Showpeople</p> <p>Does not collect any ethnic information, including Gypsies, Travellers or Showpeople</p> <p>Collect information on Gypsies, Travellers and Showpeople, but this information is not always provided. Information requested on Homeless presentations, Re-housing data & the Housing allocation pool</p> <p>Information on location of sites in Rushmoor</p> <p>Information regarding illegal encampments</p>	<p>n/a</p> <p>n/a</p> <p>4</p> <p>10</p> <p>2</p>
<p>Hampshire County Council Gypsy Liaison Officer</p>	<p>Information regarding illegal encampments pre-2012</p>	<p>n/a</p>
<p>Registered Providers</p>	<p>Collect information on Gypsies, Travellers and Showpeople, but this information is not always provided by respondent</p>	<p>n/a</p>
<p>Neighbouring Local Authorities</p>	<p>Guildford ; Basingstoke & Deane ; Hart ; Chichester ; Winchester ; West Sussex ; Test Valley ; East Hants</p>	<p>43 (13 Ash Bridge ; 30 Lakeside Close – both sites in Guildford Borough)</p>

Table 2: Traveller Sites visited during February and March 2012

Site	Identified number of plots/sites/properties	Actual number of households interviewed
330 – 342 Farnborough Road, Farnborough	5	6
159 Queens Road, Farnborough	1	2
10-14 Peabody Road, Farnborough	3	3
11 Peabody Road, Farnborough	1	2
Ash Bridge, Aldershot (Plots 1-13)	13	9
Lakeside Close, Ash Vale (30 properties in Buttermere Court ; Coniston Court ; Eskdale Court ; Haweswater Court ; Langdale Court ; Ullswater Court ; Windermere Court)	12 (self identified as Gypsy / Travellers)	9
Bricks & Mortar (Rushmoor)	4	2
Illegal encampments	2	1

N.B. One plot/site may contain more than one accommodation and some plots/sites did not contain any households or accommodation.

2.5 Limitations

2.5.1 The approach taken during the assessment does have limitations. These are summarised as such:

- Whilst there has been liaison with neighbouring local authorities and other agencies, this assessment does only cover Rushmoor Borough, whereas planning for Gypsies and Travellers is something that is best undertaken at the larger than local level. However, the results of this work can be shared with neighbouring authorities to come to an appropriate cross-boundary solution, as is appropriate in planning to meet the needs of travellers. In addition, whilst this study focuses on a single local authority area, it has been set in the wider sub-regional context.
- The surveys undertaken for the assessment produced some useful data but there were some refusals and it is possible that those who completed the questionnaire are not a representative sample. Nevertheless, this is a risk applicable to all survey work, and the results should therefore be considered within this context.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Current provision

- 3.1.1 There are currently four local authority Gypsy sites in Hampshire, with a total capacity of 78 pitches. Two of these are in the neighbouring district of Hart: Star Hill and Penny Hill, each with 20 pitches. The other sites are the Tynefield site in Winchester District (18 pitches) and the Bury Brickfields site in New Forest District (20 pitches).
- 3.1.2 There are also several authorised private sites in Hampshire. The 2006 Hampshire and Isle of Wight Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment estimated that there were 21 of these in the study area, totalling an estimated 36 pitches. The County of Surrey is home to a large Gypsy and Traveller Community, making them one of the largest ethnic minorities in the area. The 2006 West Surrey Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment found that there were 106 permanent pitches within the boroughs of Guildford, Waverley and Surrey Heath.
- 3.1.3 The eastern boundary of Rushmoor Borough is formed by the Blackwater Valley Relief Road. The Relief Road marks the boundary between Rushmoor and Guildford Boroughs. Just over the boundary, in neighbouring Guildford, there are two permanent sites for travellers, one at Ash Bridge (13 pitches) and one at Lakeside Close, Ash Vale (30 pitches).
- 3.1.4 In Rushmoor Borough, there are no permanent Gypsy and Traveller sites, either authorised or unauthorised.
- 3.1.5 Similarly, there are no legal transit sites.
- 3.1.6 There are 10 plots for Travelling Showpeople, spread over four yards in Farnborough, used by four families:
- Two yards on Peabody Road
 - One yard on Queens Road; and
 - One yard on Farnborough Road.

3.2 2012 survey results

- 3.2.1 The following information can be drawn from the surveys undertaken to inform the assessment, as described in section 2.2 above (only information that can directly inform the assessment is highlighted here).
- 3.2.2 In relation to Gypsies and Travellers:
- The survey work identified one English Traveller family (one adult, two children) living in bricks and mortar in the affordable housing sector in the Borough that is expecting some of the household to move in the next five years. They will be looking to move to a local authority serviced site in a rural area. More specifically, in response to an open-ended question, the respondent named the location they are looking to move to as “Guildford, local”.
 - There are three other households, identifying themselves as Romany, Gypsy and English Traveller, currently living in bricks and mortar but expecting at least some of the household to move in the next five years. Each of these would like to live in affordable housing (bricks and mortar) in the local area.
 - One survey was undertaken with a household that was illegally encamped on private land in Farnborough. This was a temporary encampment. The household pursues a nomadic way of life, travelling all the time, and was in their previous location for less

than a month. They would like to move to a serviced site (local authority or private), if available, or the side of the road. No preferred area was specified.

- Ten surveys were completed at the Ash Bridge serviced site in the neighbouring district of Guildford, Surrey. Of these, only one move is expected in the next 5 years. This is a daughter who is expected to marry and wants to live in Surrey.

3.2.3 In relation to Travelling Showpeople:

- 13 questionnaires were completed, seven in Queens Road/Peabody Road and six in Farnborough Road. Typically, respondents are living on their own land or that of a family member;
- A marked characteristic of the Peabody Road sites is how longstanding they are. Respondents reported that their families had owned their respective sites “for over 150 years”, “for over 60 years” and “since 1892”;
- Three of the respondents may be planning to move in the next five years;
- An important issue to emerge at the Peabody Road sites is a shortage of space. The owner occupiers of two of the plots are having to store some vehicles elsewhere;
- At the time of the survey, one of the plots on Peabody Road was vacant;
- No respondents at Farnborough Road expressed any plans to move or indicated that their current facilities are in any way lacking;
- Many are hesitant to use transit sites as they do not know who else will be on site. In addition, transit sites are generally not large enough for most Travelling Showpeople with equipment;
- Not all members of Travelling Showpeople households travel, with older members of the household often staying behind;
- The equipment of Travelling Showpeople is often stored elsewhere in neighbouring local authority areas due to lack of storage space on established sites in Rushmoor, and this makes it difficult to undertake activities such as maintenance work;
- Travelling Showpeople travel with family members based in neighbouring boroughs;
- Static vans are preferred in the context of existing means, but if funds were not an issue many would prefer to build and live in bungalows (bricks and mortar);
- Many do not travel as far as they did in the past due to rising fuel costs.

4 RESIDENTIAL SITE ESTIMATE

4.1 Summary estimate

4.1.1 As noted above, a methodology closely based on the 2007 DCLG guidance on Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments has been used to estimate the requirement of permanent pitches required in Rushmoor for the period 2012-2017.

4.1.2 The table below summarises the steps taken to arrive at the estimate, alongside the outcomes of each step.

Factor to be quantified	Amount
A: Current supply of occupied pitches in local authority or private ownership.	There are 0 authorised pitches.
B: Vacant or planned pitches, or those in the pipeline.	There are no vacant or planned pitches.
C: Current and forecast residential demand.	There is 1 example in the surveys of a resident in bricks and mortar wanting to move into a local authority site in the 'Guildford, local' area. No other such requests were uncovered. This represents a current and forecast residential demand of 1 pitch in the general area.
D: Extra pitches needed, 2012-17	Current and forecast demand of 1 (C) and no development in the pipeline (B) means that 1 extra pitch is estimated to be needed over the five year period, estimated to be in the general area over the five year period.

4.2 Detailed estimate

4.2.1 The table below provides the same information as above in a more detailed format.

Current supply of residential pitches (based on one pitch per household)			
Occupied	Number	Data Source(s)	Notes
Current supply of occupied local authority residential site pitches	0	Rushmoor Borough Council; Hampshire County Council	
Current supply of occupied authorised privately owned site pitches	0	January 2012 Caravan Count	
Total Occupied:			0
Vacant, Planned & Potential			
Number of unused local authority pitches	0		n/a
Vacancies on privately owned sites available	0		n/a
New local authority pitches already planned in year one	0	Rushmoor Borough Council	
Existing applications for private site development/extension likely to gain planning permission (during year one)	0	Rushmoor Borough Council	
Number of households in site accommodation expressing a desire to live in housing	0		n/a
Total Vacant, Planned & Potential:			0
Total current residential pitch provision:			0

Current residential demand (based on one pitch per household)			
Demand	Number	Data Source	Comments / Questions / Actions
Number of households seeking permanent site accommodation in the area	0		No sites so no waiting list
In housing, but with a need for site accommodation	1	Survey	Survey includes one respondent living in bricks and mortar in Farnborough who wants to move into a local authority site in "Guildford/local".
Number of households on unauthorised encampments	0	Rushmoor Borough Council, Hampshire County Council	No permanent unauthorised encampments
		Current Demand:	1
		Minus those Vacant, Planned & Potential:	0
Family Formation			
Family formation (2012-2017)	2.5%	Growth rate from previous Hampshire GTAA	0
		Extra pitches needed in the general area 2012-2017:	1

- 4.2.2 There is very little permanent Gypsy and Traveller activity in Rushmoor. There is no provision and very little locally-generated demand. This demand has been identified from a bricks and mortar household who would like to move to a local authority site in the general area, although not necessarily in Rushmoor, and preferably as part of an existing site.
- 4.2.3 This does not mean that there should be no supply, however, this supply is most practically provided as part of a wider sub-regional solution. Provision for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation, like general housing provision, is one of those strategic planning issues that must be dealt with at a larger than local scale. There is, and will continue to be, unmet demand in neighbouring authorities; Rushmoor may have a role to play in meeting this, although this role may be limited by the absence of any existing sites for Gypsies and Travellers.
- 4.2.4 It is recognised that given the very low level of local demand, and the fact that there are currently no permanent sites for Gypsies and Travellers in Rushmoor, it may be impractical to provide a single pitch in the Borough. Moreover, this level of provision could fail to meet the cultural needs of Gypsies and Travellers by virtue of the isolation from the travelling community that a single pitch would provide.
- 4.2.5 This assumes that the cross-boundary work continues, with a partnership effort to meet the need.

5 TEMPORARY SITE ESTIMATE

5.1 Current temporary supply

5.1.1 Provision of temporary or transit pitches and emergency stopping places is very limited in Hampshire. There are no publically-owned sites in the County and it is difficult to identify any privately-owned sites; the 2006 Hampshire and Isle of Wight GTAA (published in 2007) says that there are none.

5.1.2 Rushmoor has no authorised or unauthorised transit sites.

5.2 Temporary demand

5.2.1 An effective approach to estimating the demand for transit pitches involves a review of the record of unauthorised encampments that the Borough Council provides to the County Council.

- First 6 months of 2012: 12 caravans at Kennels Lane, Farnborough; with a separate instance of one caravan on the same site.
- 2011: none.
- 2010: Two encampments with five caravans in June and July, Fleet Road and Moor Road; assumed to be the same group moving from one location to another.
- 2009: Two encampments with three and four caravans for 15 consecutive nights in July, assumed repeat encampment.

5.2.2 With the exception of the larger 2-day encampment in June 2012, demand for temporary sites is generally low. However, this event does demonstrate that there is some demand.

5.2.3 The DCLG Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count is another indicator of low demand, with no caravans of any type being reported for the last five counts.

5.2.4 The evidence suggests that the need for temporary sites within Rushmoor is no more than **five pitches**. This would be adequate to deal with all instances of unauthorised encampment in the district in the last 3.5 years, with the exception of the most recent, unusually large, encampment.

5.2.5 As with permanent provision, however, transit sites may need to be planned for on at least a sub-regional basis. Users of temporary sites are, by definition, transient, moving from one district to another.

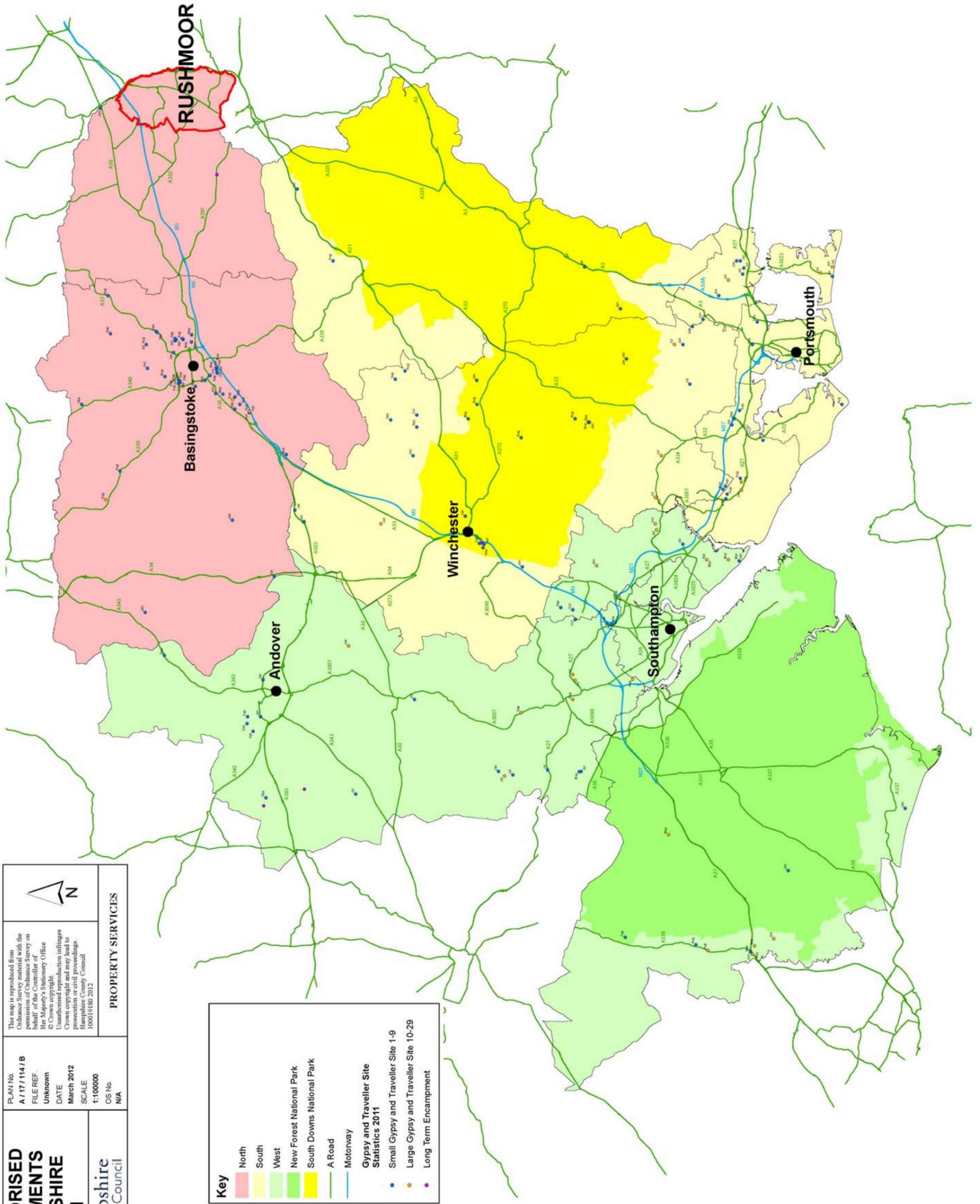
5.2.6 The 2006 Hampshire and Isle of Wight GTAA recommended that four managed transit sites should be developed within Hampshire, focussed on Basingstoke and Deane, Winchester, Southampton and the west of Hampshire. This has not occurred, but those working with Gypsies and Travellers locally, such as the County Council's Gypsy Liaison Officer, believe that if delivered this number of sites would still meet demand. If these sites were to materialise, then this could meet the need for transit sites such that specific provision would not be required in Rushmoor. Cross boundary discussion must take place in this respect.

- 5.2.7 The plan on the following page maps all of the recorded illegal encampments in Hampshire in 2011. It shows some clusters, particularly around Basingstoke, and confirms the lack of instances in Rushmoor and neighbouring Hart. It also illustrates that there could be particular travel patterns across the sub-region which show where clusters of transit provision should logically be made to meet demand.

<p>UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENTS IN HAMPSHIRE 2011</p> <p>Hampshire County Council</p>	<p>PLAN No. A / 17 / 114 / B</p> <p>FILE REF. Unknown</p> <p>DATE March 2012</p> <p>SCALE 1:100000</p> <p>OS No. N/A</p>	<p>This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey data with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Hampshire County Council 1000159180 2012</p>	<p>PROPERTY SERVICES</p>

Key

- North
- South
- West
- New Forest National Park
- South Downs National Park
- A Road
- Motorway
- Gypsy and Traveller Site Statistics 2011
 - Small Gypsy and Traveller Site 1-9
 - Large Gypsy and Traveller Site 10-29
 - Long Term Encampment



6 SHOWPEOPLE SITE ESTIMATE

6.1 Summary estimate

- 6.1.1 Chapter 3 of this report illustrates that the Travelling Showpeople population in Rushmoor is both very longstanding and stable. They are an important part of the community.
- 6.1.2 There is no evidence of demand for additional yards or plots from outside the Borough, so any new demand will be to meet the needs of the existing population.
- 6.1.3 There is no evidence of poor living conditions amongst the Rushmoor Travelling Showpeople community.
- 6.1.4 Occupants of two of the plots in Peabody Road report a lack of space to store vehicles and are having to use overspill space elsewhere. This would suggest unmet demand.
- 6.1.5 However, it would appear that at least some of this demand could be met by the vacant plot in Peabody Road that is in the same wider family ownership as those requiring more space. The summary table below assumes that this vacant plot can meet the additional needs of one plot owner.

Factor to be quantified	Amount
A: Current supply of occupied plots in local authority or private ownership.	There are 9 occupied plots.
B: Vacant or planned plots, or those in the pipeline.	There was 1 vacant plot at time of survey. There is no planned provision.
C: Current and forecast demand.	There are 2 examples in the survey of plots without enough space. This represents a current and forecast unmet demand of 1 plot.
D: Extra plots needed, 2012-17	Current and forecast demand of 1 (C) and no development in the pipeline but 1 vacant plot (B), plus 1 as the result of projected family formation, means that 2 extra plots are estimated to be needed over the five year period.

6.2 Detailed estimate

- 6.2.1 The table below provides the same information as above in a more detailed format.

Current supply of Travelling Showpeople plots			
Occupied	Number	Data Source(s)	Notes
Current supply of occupied local authority plots	0	Rushmoor Borough Council	
Current supply of occupied authorised privately owned plots	9	Rushmoor Borough Council survey	10 plots over 4 yards; 1 plot unoccupied at time of survey
Total Occupied:			9
Vacant, Planned & Potential			
Number of unused local authority plots	0		n/a
Vacancies on privately owned plots	1	Rushmoor Borough Council survey	
New local authority plots already planned in year one	0	Rushmoor Borough Council	
Existing applications for private site development/extension likely to gain planning permission (during year one)	0	Rushmoor Borough Council	
Total Vacant, Planned & Potential:			1
Total current plot provision:			10

Current demand for Travelling Showpeople plots			
Demand	Number	Data Source	Comments / Questions / Actions
Number of households known to be seeking a plot in the area	0		No waiting lists exist as there are no local authority yards
Number of existing occupiers needing more space	2	Rushmoor Borough Council survey	
Number of households on unauthorised sites	0	Rushmoor Borough Council, Hampshire County Council	No unauthorised sites
		Current Demand:	2
		Minus those Vacant, Planned & Potential:	1
Family Formation			
Family formation (2012-2017)	3%	Growth rate from previous Hampshire Showpeople Accommodation Assessment	1
		Extra plots needed 2012-2017:	2

7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Recommendations

7.1.1 In relation to the period 2012 – 2017, the conclusions of this assessment are as follows:

- There is very low internally-generated demand for permanent Gypsy and Traveller accommodation in Rushmoor. A single pitch will meet the demand. This would not necessarily be provided in Rushmoor itself given that provision of a single pitch in isolation from other such sites may not be a pragmatic solution, and could fail to meet the cultural needs of Gypsies and Travellers by virtue of its isolation from the travelling community. This provision could more logically form part of a wider strategy.
- There is more of a need for temporary or transit accommodation to deal with infrequent events. Five pitches would comfortably meet this need. This could potentially be more practically met as part of a wider strategy, rather than making specific provision in Rushmoor.
- Two additional plots for Rushmoor's well-established Travelling Showpeople community will meet local demand. There is no evidence of demand from elsewhere.
- Further discussion will be needed with this community, but the fact that it is storage space rather than living accommodation that is needed may suggest that some standard industrial/storage space may meet these needs.
- As is stated in the CLG Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Guidance (2007), it is unlikely to be realistic to try and forecast need for up to 15 years ahead (as is recommended within the Strategic Housing Market Assessment guidance for the rest of the community), with 5-10 years considered to be a reasonable range. Given the low numbers involved in this assessment, it is considered appropriate to only set targets for a five year period. For the years 6-15 it is suggested that the GTAA be updated to enable the provision of sites for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople to be provided according to the criteria set out in Core Strategy Policy CP7.

7.1.2 In addition to the above, it is possible that Rushmoor will have a contribution to make to meeting broader sub-regional need, working in partnership with other local authorities.

7.2 Partnership working

7.2.1 Partnership working will clearly be very important to ensure that the accommodation needs of Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities are met.

7.2.2 Importantly, neighbouring local authorities must work together to ensure a balanced approach to delivery. For Rushmoor, this will include local authorities in Surrey and Berkshire as well as Hampshire, particularly those in north-east Hampshire (Hart and Basingstoke and Deane), and in the adjoining County of Surrey (Guildford Borough).

7.2.3 It will also require meaningful partnership working with a range of other agencies, including those engaged with in the undertaking of this assessment, such as the Showmen's Guild, the Gypsy Council and Registered Housing Providers operating in the Borough.

**APPENDIX A – GYPSY AND TRAVELLER AND TRAVELLING SHOWPEOPLE
ACCOMMODATION ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRE**

Questionnaire



Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment

Interviewer		Date	
Accompanied by			

Site Address	
--------------	--

Interviewee First			
Male		Female	

Statement to read to the respondent:

The Council is carrying out a survey to help us work out how many sites will be needed for gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople over the next 5 years. To do this we would like you to answer some questions about your family, where you live and how often you travel. The information you give us will be treated confidentially, but your answers will help us to make sure we plan for the future of the gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople.

To be completed prior to carrying out questionnaire

(If possible - confirm with interviewee if necessary):

The Household

1) How many people live with you?

Number

2) What is the make-up of the household?

	Number of males	Number of females
Under 16		
16-20		
21-30		
31-40		
41-50		
51-60		
60+		

3) Do you think of yourselves as?

Romany	
Irish Traveller	
English Traveller	
Travelling Showpeople	
Other	
Not applicable	
Refused	

4) Apart from living accommodation, how many additional motorised vehicles do you keep at your home?

Cars	
Vans	
Work vehicles	
Fairground equipment	
Other	

5) Do you keep any horses or livestock at your home? If so what?

Yes	
No	
Refused	

.....

Current accommodation

6) What type of accommodation are you currently in?

For respondents in 'bricks and mortar' housing	Number	No. of bedrooms
Private rented		
Social rent (Local authority)		
Social rent (Housing Association or other social landlords)		
Temporary / Homeless accommodation		
Owner occupied		
For respondents in a static caravan		
Serviced site (Local Authority owned)		
Serviced site (privately owned)		
Own land (with planning permission)		
Own land (without planning permission)		
Don't know status of land		
For respondents in a touring caravan		
Serviced site (Local Authority owned)		
Serviced site (privately owned)		

Own land (with planning permission)		
Own land (without planning permission)		
Public land		
Don't know status of land		
Other		
Private land without consent		
Refused		
Notes:		

7) How long have you lived in your current home?

Less than 1 month	
Between 1 month and 6 months	
More than 6 months to a year	
More than 1 year to 5 years	
More than 5 years	
Refused	

8) Do you regard this accommodation/site as:

a) Your permanent home for the foreseeable future	
b) Your main home for the present	
c) Your seasonal home	
d) A temporary stopping point only	
e) An emergency "stop-gap" only	

Notes:

If answered yes to 8a or 8b, go to Q9. Otherwise skip to Q10.

9) If this is your main base, what are your reasons for being settled here?

Always lived here	
Family connection	
Work in area	
Site provides base for work	
Site provides storage facilities for equipment	
Schools / education	
Availability of pitches locally	
Closer to facilities / services	
Quality of area	
Other	

Previous accommodation

10) Previously were you living.....

For respondents in 'bricks and mortar' housing	
Private rented	
Social rent (Local authority)	
Social rent (Housing Association or other social landlords)	
Temporary / Homeless accommodation	
Owner occupied	
For respondents in a static caravan	
Serviced site (Local Authority owned)	
Serviced site (privately owned)	
Own land (with planning permission)	
Own land (without planning permission)	
Don't know status of land	
For respondents in a touring caravan	
Serviced site (Local Authority owned)	
Serviced site (privately owned)	
Own land (with planning permission)	
Own land (without planning permission)	
Public land	
Don't know status of land	
Other	
Private land without consent	
Refused	

Notes:

11a) How long did you live in your previous location?

Less than 1 month	
Between 1 month and 6 months	
More than 6 months to a year	
More than 1 year to 5 years	
More than 5 years	
Refused	

11b) How long did you live in your previous accommodation?

Less than 1 month	
Between 1 month and 6 months	
More than 6 months to a year	
More than 1 year to 5 years	
More than 5 years	
Refused	

12) Why did you decide to move?

Family reasons	
Travelling	
Unsuitable location	
Unsuitable living conditions	
Refused planning permission	
Offered other accommodation	
Employment	
Looking for employment	
Other	
Refused	

13) What area did you previously live in?

.....

Future plans

14) Are you, or any of the people in your household (including children) expecting to move in the next 5 years?

Yes, whole household		Go to Q15
Yes, some people in household (give number)		Go to Q15
No		Go to Q18
Do not know		Go to Q18
Refused		Go to Q18

(If answer yes to Q14 ask Q15-17, otherwise go to Q18)

15) What type of accommodation are you looking to move to?

Bricks and Mortar (affordable housing)	
Bricks and Mortar (market housing)	
Serviced Site (Local Authority owned)	
Serviced Site (privately owned)	
Own land (with planning permission)	
Own land (without planning permission)	
Side of the road	
Other	
Refused	

16) What area are you looking to move to?

.....

17) Why are you looking to move?

Family reasons	
Travelling	
Current home is an unsuitable location	
Current home has unsuitable living conditions	
Refused planning permission at current home	
Offered other accommodation	
Looking for employment	
Other	
Refused	

18) If you were to move, what type of location would you look for?

Rural	
Urban	
Good access to major roads	
Near to schools	
Near to doctors/dentist	
Space for vehicles	
Space for animals	

Travelling

19) Do you pursue a nomadic way of life?

Yes			Go to Q20
No			Go to Q28
Refused			Go to Q28

If answer yes to Q19 ask Q20-27, if not go to question 28.

20) How often do you travel?

All the time	
Once a year	
Twice a year	
3 times a year	
4 times a year	
5+ times a year	
Other	
Refused	

21a) Who do you travel with?

On your own	
As a household	
With friends and family	
With a group of travellers who are unrelated to you	

Other	
Refused	

21b) How many vehicles do you normally travel with in total? (Size of convoy)

No. of vehicles	
-----------------	--

22) Where do you normally travel to?

Other sites in Rushmoor	
Other sites in Hampshire	
Other sites in Surrey	
Other sites in the South East	
Other sites in the UK	
Other	
Refused	

23) What travelling pattern do you follow?

Travel to one specific destination	
Travel to a set pattern of locations	
No set pattern of locations	
Other	
Refused	

24) What is your preferred time of year to travel?

Spring	
Summer	
Autumn	
Winter	
All year round	

No preference	
Other (specify)	
Refused	

25) For what reasons do you travel?

To visit friends / family	
To work	
To visit specific events	
Other	
Refused	

26) When you travel, how long are you away from your main accommodation?

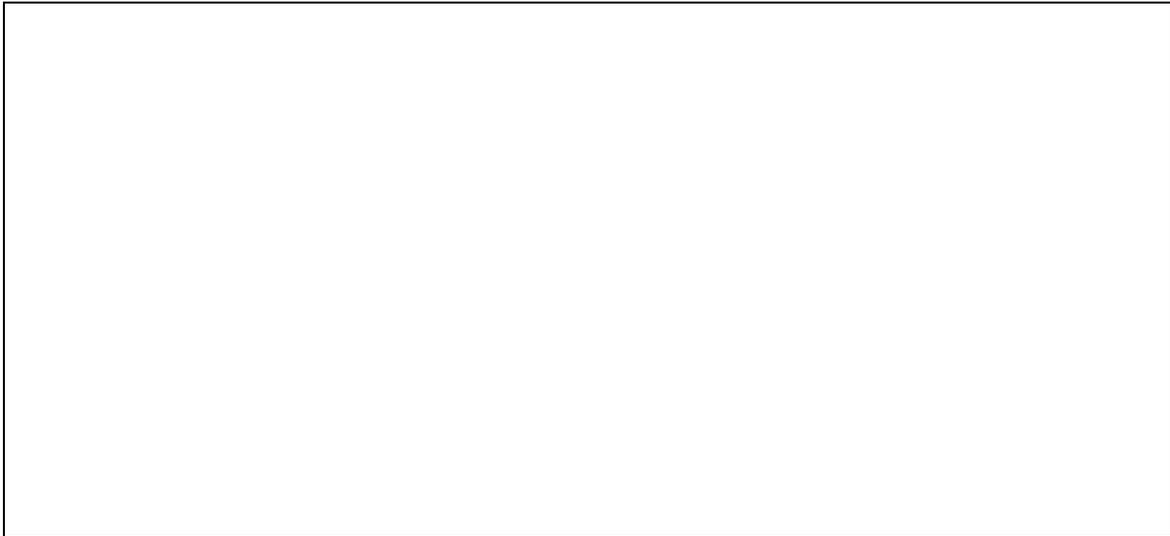
Up to a week	
Up to a month	
1-3 months	
3-6 months	
More than 6 months	

27) Would you use a transit site if one was available?

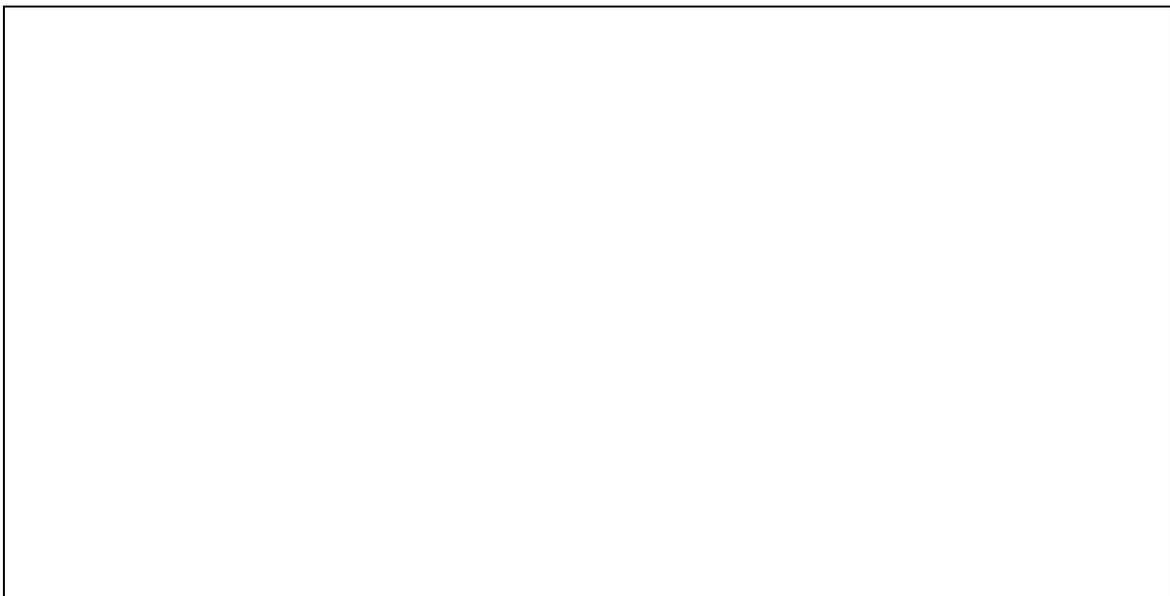
Yes	
No	

Additional

28) Do you know of any other traveller families we could talk who may live elsewhere in the Area?



29) Do you have any other comments or would you like to add anything we have not covered?



Thank you for taking the time to answer these questions.