



# Coastal West Sussex Authorities Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment: Executive Summary



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# Executive Summary

## The Study

1. Opinion Research Services (ORS) and Peter Brett Associates (PBA) were commissioned by the Coastal West Sussex (CWS) authorities and the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA), with support from West Sussex County Council, to undertake a Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment.
2. The main objective of this study is to provide the Councils with robust, defensible and up-to-date evidence about the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in the Coastal West Sussex authorities during the period until 2027. The study also seeks to identify broad locations for any additional provision required.

## National Government Policy

3. The Coalition Government announced that the previous government's thinking contained in Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites (Circular 01/06) was to be repealed, along with the Regional Spatial Strategies which were used to allocate pitch provision to local authorities. This happened in 2012 with the publication of the CLG document 'Planning Policy for Traveller Sites' in March 2012. The document states that (Planning Policy for Traveller Sites Page 3):

*'Local planning authorities should 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'.*

## Gypsy and Traveller Sites and Caravans in Coastal West Sussex Authorities

### Adur District

4. Adur has one authorised public site with 12 pitches and 12 caravans, which has been consistently full at the time of all caravan counts since 2007.

### Arun District

5. Arun District also includes a number of sites within the South Downs National Park Authority area. The District contains one public site with 12 pitches and 12 private pitches. Meanwhile the South Downs National Park Authority contains 11 Gypsy and Traveller pitches within Arun District. Across the whole of Arun in July 2012 there were 45 caravans present in Arun with 42 on authorised sites and 3 on unauthorised sites.

### **Chichester District**

6. Chichester has the largest Gypsy and Traveller population in the study area. It has two public sites with a combined capacity of 40 pitches and 16 private sites with a capacity of 47 pitches, of which 3 are for transit use at West Ashling. We would note that in addition to the 47 pitch private pitches, one pitch in Chichester District lies within the South Downs National Park Authority area.
7. The area also contains a single caravan on a tolerated site at Hambrook which has been present since 1992 and 4 pitches on an unauthorised site at West Ashling which have been present since 2006.

### **Worthing Borough**

8. Worthing has no authorised sites, and in the past years has only 2 recorded unauthorised encampments at the time of the caravan count. However, this study identified that the area contains a long-term unauthorised site which falls within the boundary of the South Downs National Park Authority.

### **Survey of the Gypsy and Traveller Population**

9. Interviews were attempted with every Gypsy and Traveller household in the area who were present between August and September 2012. Therefore, the base date for the findings of this study is September 2012. Throughout the survey period interviewers from ORS worked from 9am to 7pm each day and made repeated visits to each household until a successful interview was concluded. In total, interviews were achieved on-site with 95 households and a further 11 in bricks and mortar.
10. 65% of respondents had lived on their current site for more than 5 years. 91% of the respondents to the survey identified their current site as being their permanent base. The main factors which attracted respondents to the area were to be near to their family or the open countryside.
11. There was a high level of satisfaction with current sites (96%), with almost 8 in 10 households being very satisfied. Only around 2% of respondents expressed some form of dissatisfaction.
12. Over a fifth of respondents wanted better washing facilities, while just under 20% stated better toilet facilities were required.
13. The households showed a mixed range of ages across their members. The households contained 11% of people who were 60 years or older, but over 36% of all household members were aged 16 years or under. 17% of all household members were of school age and another 18% were children aged 4 years or less.
14. A third of respondents interviewed reported that their household contained at least one member who suffered with a long-term health problem, there were no households however, who require any home adaptations in order to meet the care needs of those with long-term health problems.

## Gypsy and Traveller Future Pitch Provision

15. Based upon the evidence presented in the main report, the estimated extra pitch provision that is required for Gypsies and Travellers in the next 15 years in Coastal West Sussex is 88 pitches. The table below shows the requirement by planning authority by type of pitch in 5 year intervals. These figures should be seen as the minimum amount of provision which is necessary to meet the statutory obligations towards identifiable needs of the population.

Figure 1

Extra Pitch Provision in Sussex Coastal by Planning Authority by Public and Private Sites (Source: ORS Housing Market Model)

Planning Authority	2012-2017		2018-2022		2023-2027	
	Public	Private/New Traveller	Public	Private/New Traveller	Public	Private/New Traveller
Adur	5	0	1	0	1	0
Arun	10	2	1	2	1	2
Chichester	17	20	5	6	5	6
South Downs National Park Authority	0	1	0	1	0	2
Worthing	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>

## Transit Sites

16. There is currently one transit site in Chichester with three pitches. The evidence from the household survey and West Sussex County Council records for unauthorised encampments indicates that there is a clear gap in provision for at least one 10 pitch transit site in the area to help to manage unauthorised encampments. We would also note that transit sites are an area where cross boundary working could prove to be particularly effective and that the needs of Gypsy and Travellers visiting West Sussex are an issue which should be considered at a strategic level.

## Travelling Showperson Requirements

17. There are four sources of requirements for the Showperson population in Coastal West Sussex, namely two households on unauthorised yards, the loss of a temporary planning permission on one yard, three yards which are overcrowded or beyond capacity and the growth in the population over time. Adur has a requirement for one plot for a household currently living on a non-Traveller residential caravan site, Arun has a requirement for 7 extra plots for Showpeople to 2027 (to reflect the loss of a temporary planning permission, one site being over capacity and household growth). Chichester requires 18 extra plots to 2027 (to address overcrowding at existing sites and household growth). If any existing plots are lost through conversion to alternative uses then these plots will also need to be replaced through alternative provision.

## Broad Locations

18. The recommended broad locations, together with physical constraints and protected areas, identified settlements and existing Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople site locations, are identified in the map overleaf.



Future Gypsy & Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Sites  
Potential Broad Locations

