

Fylde Coast Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showperson Accommodation Assessment 2023/24

Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Borough Councils

Final Report
February 2024

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Table of Contents

Executive Summary	8
Introduction.....	8
Population and current accommodation provision.....	8
Planning policy requirements for needs assessments.....	9
Gypsy and Traveller pitch requirements	10
Wyre.....	13
Fylde Coast summary.....	14
Temporary and negotiated stopping places.....	15
Travelling Showperson plot requirements	15
Blackpool.....	15
Fylde.....	15
Wyre	16
Policy recommendations	16
1. Introduction.....	18
Overview.....	18
Whom the study covers	18
Report structure.....	19
2. Policy context	20
Government policy and guidance	20
Defining need	22
Previous Fylde Coast GTAA.....	22
Responding to challenges	23
3. Methodology.....	24
Introduction.....	24
Phase 1: Literature/desktop review and steering group discussions	24
Phase 2: Fieldwork survey and interviews with Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	24
Phase 3: Needs assessment and production of report.....	25
4. Review of the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population and existing provision of pitches and plots	27
Overview.....	27
2011 Census population and household estimates	27
2021 Census population and households.....	28
Caravan Count information.....	28
Local sites and yards.....	28
Summary of sites and yards	35
5. Household survey findings.....	39
Gypsy and Traveller households living on the Fylde Coast.....	39

Support needs	40
Education and training.....	40
Access to services.....	40
Site improvements.....	42
Travelling Showperson households living on the Fylde Coast.....	43
6. Stakeholder summary.....	44
Residential Pitch Need: Gypsies and Travellers.....	44
Residential Plot Need: Travelling Showpeople.....	45
Gypsy and Traveller unauthorised encampments and the need for temporary provision	46
Gypsies and Travellers in bricks and mortar accommodation and on residential caravan sites	47
Access to facilities, services and unmet needs.....	47
Movement and cross-boundary considerations.	48
Key strategic messages	48
Contributing to the Duty to Cooperate with neighbouring authorities as set out in Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act.....	49
7. Gypsy and Traveller residential pitch and transit site need	50
Introduction.....	50
Gypsy and Traveller pitch requirement model overview	50
Blackpool Borough pitch need analysis: Description of factors in the 5-year need model.....	51
Longer-term pitch requirement modelling	54
Overall plan period pitch need.....	54
Potential capacity for Gypsy and Traveller pitches on existing sites.....	55
Impact of turnover, regularisation and additional pitches on overall need.	56
Tenure preferences	56
Fylde Borough pitch need analysis: Description of factors in the 5-year need model.....	57
Longer-term pitch requirement modelling	60
Overall plan period pitch need.....	60
Potential capacity for Gypsy and Traveller pitches on existing sites.....	61
Impact of turnover, regularisation and additional pitches on overall need.	62
Tenure preferences	62
Wyre Borough pitch need analysis: Description of factors in the 5-year need model.....	63
Longer-term pitch requirement modelling	66
Overall plan period pitch need.....	67
Potential capacity for Gypsy and Traveller pitches on existing sites.....	67
Impact of turnover, regularisation and additional pitches on overall need.	67
Tenure preferences	68
Blueberry Park and Blueberry Stables.....	68

	Transit requirements across the Fylde Coast	68
8.	Travelling Showperson residential plot need	70
	Introduction	70
	Blackpool Borough	70
	Longer-term plot requirement modelling	72
	Overall plan period plot need	73
	Fylde Borough	74
	Longer-term plot requirement modelling	76
	Overall plan period plot need	77
	Wyre Borough	77
	Longer-term plot requirement modelling	80
	Overall plan period plot need	80
9.	Conclusion and response	81
	Current accommodation	81
	Future Gypsy and Traveller residential need	81
	Transit site/stop over need	83
	Future Travelling Showperson residential need	83
	Future updating	84
	Appendix A: Gypsy and Traveller Fieldwork Questionnaire	85
	Appendix B: Glossary of terms	92

List of Tables

Table ES1	Gypsy and Traveller pitch need: Blackpool 2022/23 to 2039/40	10
Table ES2	Gypsy and Traveller pitch need: Fylde 2022/23 to 2039/40	12
Table ES3	Gypsy and Traveller pitch need: Wyre 2022/23 to 2039/40	13
Table ES4	Summary of Gypsy and Traveller residential pitch need by time period	14
Table ES5	Summary of potential supply of Gypsy and Traveller residential pitches	14
Table ES6	Travelling Showperson plot need: Blackpool 2022/23 to 2039/40	15
Table ES7	Travelling Showperson plot need: Fylde 2022/23 to 2039/40	16
Table ES8	Travelling Showperson plot need: Wyre 2022/23 to 2039/40	16
Table ES9	Summary of residential pitch need to 2040	17
Table 4.1	People in households identifying as White Gypsy or Irish Traveller by accommodation type	27
Table 4.2	Households identifying as Gypsy Traveller by accommodation type	27
Table 4.3a	List of Gypsy & Traveller residential pitches on sites (as of September 2023)	30

Table 4.3b	List of Gypsy & Traveller transit pitches on sites (as of September 2023)	32
Table 4.3c	List of Travelling Showperson residential plots on yards (as of September 2023)	33
Table 4.3d	List of Travelling Showperson transit plots on yards (as of September 2023)	34
Table 4.4a	Summary of Gypsy & Traveller pitches on sites (as of September 2023)	35
Table 4.4b	Summary of Travelling Showperson plots on yards (as of September 2023)	37
Table 5.1	Improvements to council site in Blackpool	42
Table 7.1	Summary of demand and supply factors: Blackpool Borough Gypsies and Travellers – 2022/23 to 2026/27	52
Table 7.2	Future pitch requirements based on the assumption that 50% of children will require a pitch in Blackpool Borough	54
Table 7.3	Gypsy and Traveller pitch need: Blackpool Borough 2022/23 to 2039/40	55
Table 7.4	Potential additional pitches on existing sites and caravan parks to meet Gypsy and Traveller need: Blackpool Borough	56
Table 7.5	Summary of demand and supply factors: Fylde Borough Gypsies and Travellers – 2022/23 to 2026/27	58
Table 7.6	Future pitch requirements based on the assumption that 50% of children will require a pitch in Fylde Borough	60
Table 7.7	Gypsy and Traveller pitch need Fylde Borough 2022/23 to 2039/40	61
Table 7.8	Potential additional pitches on existing sites to meet Gypsy and Traveller need: Fylde Borough	62
Table 7.9	Summary of demand and supply factors: Wyre Borough Gypsies and Travellers – 2022/23 to 2026/27	64
Table 7.10	Future pitch requirements based on the assumption that 50% of children will require a pitch in Wyre Borough	66
Table 7.11	Gypsy and Traveller pitch need Wyre Borough 2022/23 to 2039/40	67
Table 8.1	Summary of demand and supply factors: Travelling Showpeople – Blackpool Borough 2022/23 to 2026/27	71
Table 8.2	Future plot requirements based on the assumption that 50% of children will require a plot: Blackpool Borough	73
Table 8.3	Travelling Showperson plot need Blackpool Borough 2022/23 to 2039/40	73
Table 8.4	Summary of demand and supply factors: Travelling Showpeople – Fylde Borough 2022/23 to 2026/27	75
Table 8.5	Future plot requirements based on the assumption that 50% of children will require a plot: Fylde Borough	77

Table 8.6 Travelling Showperson plot need Fylde Borough 2022/23 to 2039/40... 77

Table 8.7 Summary of demand and supply factors: Travelling Showpeople – Wyre Borough 2022/23 to 2026/27 79

Table 8.8 Future plot requirements based on the assumption that 50% of children will require a plot: Wyre Borough 80

Table 8.9 Travelling Showperson plot need Wyre Borough 2022/23 to 2039/40 ... 80

Table 9.1 Summary of Gypsy and Traveller residential pitch need to 2040 by time period..... 82

Table 9.2 Summary of potential supply of Gypsy and Traveller residential pitches 82

List of Maps

Map 4.1 Location of Gypsy and Traveller sites and Travelling Showperson’s yards on the Fylde Coast..... 37

Executive Summary

Introduction

The Fylde Coast Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showperson Accommodation Assessment 2023 (GTAA) provides the latest available evidence to identify the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople across Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre boroughs.

The GTAA has included:

- A review of existing (secondary) data; and
- A household survey and site/yard observation. A total of 51 Gypsy and Traveller household interviews were achieved and further information from site managers/owners and planning data provide data for 16 households. This results in data for 67 households out of a total of 76 households (88.2% response rate) across the study area. A total of 4 Travelling Showperson household interviews were achieved plus further information from yard owners for 17 households. This results in data for 21 households compared with a total of 23 households (91.3% response rate).

As part of the GTAA, a specialist arc⁴ associate and the Lancashire County Council Education Access Officer who works across the Fylde Coast engaged with households living in bricks and mortar accommodation. Although contacts were made, none of the households wanted to participate with the study.

Data have been carefully analysed to provide a picture of current provision and activity across the borough and an assessment of future need. The findings of the study provide an up-to-date, robust and defensible evidence base for policy development.

We are very grateful to the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showperson communities' response across the Fylde Coast for their positive engagement with the work.

Population and current accommodation provision

The 2021 Census identified a population of 328 people who identified as 'White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller' or 'Gypsy/Romany' (230 Blackpool, 46 Fylde, 52 Wyre). There were also 13 people identifying as 'Roma' living in Blackpool.

The 2021 census reports a total of 145 households where the Household Reference Person is a Gypsy or Traveller (Blackpool 100, 10 Fylde and 35 Wyre).

The 2021 census reports a total of 107 Gypsy and Traveller households living in bricks and mortar across the Fylde Coast (70 Blackpool, 9 Fylde and 28 Wyre).

Across the Fylde Coast there are a total of 21 Gypsy and Traveller sites with 77 pitches (70 occupied and 7 vacant):

Blackpool	1 council site, 26 pitches (all occupied) 9 private authorised sites, 24 pitches (all occupied)
Fylde	8 private authorised sites, 23 pitches (18 occupied and 5 vacant) 1 unauthorised site, 1 pitch (1 occupied)
Wyre	1 private authorised site with 2 pitches (2 vacant) 1 unauthorised site, 1 pitch (1 occupied)

Note that in Wyre there are two additional areas of land called Blueberry Stables and Blueberry Park. Both areas are currently unoccupied with planning permission refused on Blueberry Stables and occupants subsequently moving off the site. Households associated with these sites are currently living outside of Wyre.

Note the former holiday park at Great Birchwood (Fylde) was visited. There were 5, mainly older person, households living there but none were Gypsy and Traveller.

Across the Fylde Coast there are 4 Travelling Showperson's yards with 27 plots (25 occupied, 1 vacant and 1 plot kept vacant to allow for emergency accommodation if needed).

Blackpool	2 private authorised yards, 6 plots (5 occupied, 1 vacant)
Fylde	1 private authorised yard, 2 plots (2 occupied)
Wyre	1 private authorised yard with 19 plots (18 occupied and 1 left available for emergency accommodation)

In January and July each year, councils carry out a Traveller caravan count to inform DLUHC statistics. Due to data collection challenges, the data for Fylde Coast have not been included in this report.

Planning policy requirements for needs assessments

The 2023 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states in Paragraph 63 *'the size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community should be assessed and reflected in planning policies'*. These groups should include Travellers. A footnote in the NPPF then states *'Planning Policy for Traveller Sites sets out how travellers' housing needs should be assessed for those covered by the definition in Annex 1 of that document'*.

The 2015 Planning Policy for Traveller Site (PPTS) document states that *'local planning authorities should make their own assessment of need for the purposes of planning' and 'ensure that their Local Plan includes fair, realistic and inclusive policies' and 'to increase the number of traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply'*.

In the absence of further guidance on preparing GTAAs, the methods adopted by arc⁴ reflect the PPTS, build upon those methods established through previous guidance, our practical experience and decisions made at planning inquiries and appeals.

In December 2023, DLUHC announced that the definitions of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople set out in PPTS have now reverted back to those of the 2012 PPTS. When considering future residential pitch needs, there is no longer a distinction between Gypsies and Travellers who have ceased to travel or continue to live a nomadic habit of life. The government intends to review the approach to this area of policy and case law in 2024.

Need assessment period

Need has been assessed over a short-term period: 2022/23 to 2026/27 and longer-term period: 2027/28 to 2039/40.

Gypsy and Traveller pitch requirements

Blackpool

Future residential pitch need

There is an overall need for 19 additional Gypsy and Traveller pitches across Blackpool Borough over the period 2022/23 to 2039/40 (Table ES1).

Needs analysis takes into account the needs arising from existing households, households on unauthorised sites, newly forming households, and also current vacancies on existing public and private sites. Modelling assumes that need from immigration would be met through criteria-based policies.

Notwithstanding evidence in this GTAA on need, additional need may arise over the plan period, for instance households moving into the borough or moving from bricks and mortar accommodation. It is therefore recommended that each council references the overall need in the GTAA as a minimum need, how this need can be met and also sets out criteria-based policies to inform future planning applications for public and private sites.

Table ES1 Gypsy and Traveller pitch need: Blackpool 2022/23 to 2039/40

Period	Need
5yr Authorised Pitch Need (2022/23 to 2026/27)	2
Longer-term need	
<i>Over period 2027/28 to 2031/32 (Years 6 to 10)</i>	5
<i>Over period 2032/33 to 2036/37 (Years 11 to 15)</i>	4
<i>Over period 2037/38 to 2039/40 (Years 16 to 18)</i>	8
Longer-term need TOTAL	17
TOTAL Need 2022/23 to 2039/40	19
Annual need	1.0

Meeting the need

There are a number of options the council should consider as potential methods to help meet identified residential pitch need. This can include the use of vacant pitches, regularisation of pitches that are not authorised and additional pitches on existing sites. Whether regularisation and/or provision of additional pitches is the appropriate solution to meeting needs, rather than through the provision of further sites, will be a matter for the councils to determine, having regard to all planning considerations. It will be for the councils to assess where within the Fylde Coast the appropriate locations will be for needs to be met.

Vacant pitches: there are currently no vacant pitches in Blackpool.

Regularisation: there are no pitches that are not permanently authorised

Additional pitches on existing sites : respondents were asked if their sites could be expanded either through a physical expansion or intensification of use to provide more pitches. A range of between 8 and 10 pitches was identified. The council has been provided with details of potential sites for expansion/intensification. It is recommended that the council reflect upon the potential for additional pitches on sites as a way of helping to meet need and whether this can be achieved in planning terms by factoring in wider planning considerations.

Turnover on council pitches: there is also a small level of turnover which is expected to provide 2 pitches over the next 5 years based on past trends of pitches becoming available for occupancy over the past 5 years (or 7 pitches over the period 2022/23 to 2039/40).

Conclusion

The council should recognise a minimum need for 19 pitches over the plan period (2 in the short-term and 17 in the longer-term). There is a potential for between 8 and 10 pitches to become available through the intensification/expansion of existing sites which should be explored further by the council. There is an anticipated turnover of 7 pitches on the council site to 2039/40.

If turnover and all potential pitch provision was realised, the overall supply of pitches would be 15 to 17. This would result in a small residual need for pitches.

Fylde

Future residential pitch need

There is an overall need for 15 additional Gypsy and Traveller pitches across Fylde Borough over the period 2022/23 to 2039/40 (Table ES2).

Needs analysis takes into account the needs arising from existing households, households on unauthorised sites, newly forming households and also current supply on existing public and private sites. Modelling assumes that need from in-migration would be met through criteria-based policies.

Notwithstanding evidence in this GTAA on need, additional need may arise over the plan period, for instance households moving into the borough or moving from bricks and mortar accommodation. It is therefore recommended that each council references the overall need in the GTAA as a minimum need, how this need can be met and also

sets out criteria-based policies to inform future planning applications for public and private sites.

Table ES2 Gypsy and Traveller pitch need: Fylde 2022/23 to 2039/40

Period	Need
5yr Authorised Pitch Need (2022/23 to 2026/27)	4
Longer-term need	
<i>Over period 2027/28 to 2031/32 (Years 6 to 10)</i>	7
<i>Over period 2032/33 to 2036/37 (Years 11 to 15)</i>	3
<i>Over period 2037/38 to 2039/40 (Years 16 to 18)</i>	1
Longer-term need TOTAL	11
TOTAL Need 2022/23 to 2039/40	15
Annual need	0.8

Meeting the need

There are a number of options the council should consider as potential methods to help meet identified residential pitch need. This can include the use of vacant pitches, regularisation of pitches that are not authorised and additional pitches on existing sites. Whether regularisation and/or provision of additional pitches is the appropriate solution to meeting needs, rather than through the provision of further sites, will be a matter for the councils to determine, having regard to all planning considerations. It will be for the councils to assess where within the Fylde Coast the appropriate locations will be for needs to be met.

Vacant pitches: there are 5 vacant pitches on existing sites which is considered as part of overall pitch supply in the needs modelling. Note that the 6-pitch site at Willow Park Stables is no longer being used for Gypsies and Travellers.

Regularisation: there is one pitch that is not permanently authorised

Additional pitches on existing sites : respondents were asked if their sites could be expanded either through a physical expansion or intensification of use to provide more pitches. A range of between 17 and 21 pitches was identified on authorised sites.

Turnover on council pitches: there are no council sites so this is not relevant to Fylde

Conclusion

The council should recognise a minimum need for 15 pitches.

There is potential to regularise 1 pitch which is not authorised.

There is potential for between 17 and 21 pitches to become available through the intensification/expansion of existing sites which should be explored further by the council.

Assuming that additional pitches are brought forward through regularisation and intensification/expansion, the identified minimum need would be met.

Wyre

Future residential pitch need

There is an overall need for -1 additional Gypsy and Traveller pitches across Wyre Borough over the period 2022/23 to 2039/40 (Table ES3).

Needs analysis takes into account the needs arising from existing households, households on unauthorised sites, newly forming households and also current vacancies on existing public and private sites. Modelling assumes that need from immigration would be met through criteria-based policies.

Notwithstanding evidence in this GTAA on need, additional need may arise over the plan period, for instance households moving into the borough or moving from bricks and mortar accommodation. It is therefore recommended that each council references the overall need in the GTAA as a minimum need, how this need can be met and also sets out criteria-based policies to inform future planning applications for public and private sites.

It should be noted there are two areas of land in Wyre which have an association with Gypsies and Travellers: Blueberry Park and Blueberry Stables, Lancaster Road, Preesall. These areas are currently unoccupied, with planning permission refused on Blueberry Stables and occupants subsequently moving off the site (see separate notes on Blueberry Stables and Blueberry Park in section 7). A recent planning application has been received for Blueberry Stables. Any applications would be considered against criteria-based policy.

Table ES3 Gypsy and Traveller pitch need: Wyre 2022/23 to 2039/40

Period	Need
5yr Authorised Pitch Need (2022/23 to 2026/27)	-1
Longer-term need	
<i>Over period 2027/28 to 2031/32 (Years 6 to 10)</i>	0
<i>Over period 2032/33 to 2036/37 (Years 11 to 15)</i>	0
<i>Over period 2037/38 to 2039/40 (Years 16 to 18)</i>	0
Longer-term need TOTAL	0
TOTAL Need 2022/23 to 2039/40	-1
Annual need	-0.1

Meeting the need

There is currently one household in Wyre Borough living on a pitch and currently no net need in Wyre Borough. There is an existing supply of 2 authorised pitches to meet need which are currently vacant.

Conclusion

There is currently no net need for pitches in Wyre. Criteria-based policies would be used to consider any future needs arising.

Fylde Coast summary

Table ES4 summarises the residential pitch need by borough across the Fylde Coast by time period to 2040.

Table ES5 summarises the potential for additional pitches to be developed on existing sites and through regularisation, that is becoming permanently authorised, and from turnover. Whether regularisation and/or provision of additional pitches is the appropriate solution to meeting needs, rather than through the provision of further sites, will be a matter for the councils to determine, having regard to all planning considerations. It will be for the councils to assess where within the Fylde Coast the appropriate locations will be for needs to be met.

Across the Fylde Coast as a whole, the overall need is for 33 pitches.

There is also potential supply through regularisation, intensification and turnover for up to 40 pitches; however, the suitability of these will be for the councils to assess.

Assuming all of these pitches became available need would be met across the Fylde Coast.

Notwithstanding evidence in this GTAA on need, additional need may arise over the plan period, for instance households moving into the area. It is therefore recommended that the councils' Local Plans reference the need in the GTAA as a minimum need which is likely to be met but sets out criteria-based policies to inform future planning applications for private sites should they arise.

Table ES4 Summary of Gypsy and Traveller residential pitch need by time period

Time period	Overall need			
	Blackpool	Fylde	Wyre	Fylde Coast
2022/23 to 2026/27	2	4	-1	5
2027/28 to 2039/40	17	11	0	28
Total 2022/23 to 2039/40	19	15	-1	33

Table ES5 Summary of potential supply of Gypsy and Traveller residential pitches

Method of delivery	Borough			
	Blackpool	Fylde	Wyre	Fylde Coast
Regularisation	0	1	1	2
Expansion / intensification	8 to 10	17 to 21	0	25 to 31
Turnover on council site (2 every 5 years or 7 over period 2022/23 to 2039/40)	7			7
TOTAL	15 to 17	18 to 22	1	34 to 40

Note: regularisation relates to

FUnauth1 Kays Farm, Dagger Road, Treales, Roseacre and Wharles (Fylde) and

WUnauth1 Land East of Bowses Hill Stud, Neds Lane, Stalmine

Temporary and negotiated stopping places

The councils should consider the options for transit provision, particularly in response to the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act. Given this level of unauthorised encampment activity, it is recommended the councils consider developing a negotiated stopping policy to support Travellers passing through the Fylde Coast area. It is recommended the councils should consider identifying areas of land that can be used for smaller encampments (up to 5 caravans), encampments of between 5 and up to 10 caravans and for larger encampments at least 10 caravans to accommodate Travellers passing through the Fylde Coast.

Travelling Showperson plot requirements

There is a need for 14 Travelling Showperson plots across the Fylde Coast, notably in Blackpool (1) and Wyre (13). Site owners are keen to work with the councils to identify more sites to develop Showperson's yards.

Blackpool

There is currently no overall need for additional Travelling Showperson plots across Blackpool Borough over the period 2022/23 to 2039/40 (Table ES6). Needs analysis takes into account the needs arising from existing households, newly forming households and also current vacancies on existing private yards. However, one Travelling Showperson interviewed considered the size of their existing yard in Blackpool to be insufficient to accommodate the storage of equipment. Any such requirement would be considered against the Council's criteria based policy for Travelling Showperson sites.

Table ES6 Travelling Showperson plot need: Blackpool 2022/23 to 2039/40

Period	Need
5yr Authorised Plot Need (2022/23 to 2026/27)	-1
Longer-term need	
<i>Over period 2027/28 to 2031/32 (Years 6 to 10)</i>	0
<i>Over period 2032/33 to 2036/37 (Years 11 to 15)</i>	0
<i>Over period 2037/38 to 2039/40 (Years 16 to 18)</i>	1
Longer-term need TOTAL	1
TOTAL NET NEED 2022/23 to 2039/40	0

Fylde

There is one Travelling Showperson yard in Fylde but no identified additional need for plots (Table ES7).

Table ES7 Travelling Showperson plot need: Fylde 2022/23 to 2039/40

Period	Need
5yr Authorised Plot Need (2022/23 to 2026/27)	0
Longer-term need	
<i>Over period 2027/28 to 2031/32 (Years 6 to 10)</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Over period 2032/33 to 2036/37 (Years 11 to 15)</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Over period 2037/38 to 2039/40 (Years 16 to 18)</i>	<i>0</i>
Longer-term need TOTAL	0
TOTAL NET NEED 2022/23 to 2039/40	0

Wyre

There is one Travelling Showperson's yard in Wyre located at Cabus, Garstang which accommodates 18 households. There is considerable demand for plots on this yard and the main driver for need in Table ES8 is from household formation from young people living on the yard. The site owner is willing to work with the council to deliver more yards.

Table ES8 Travelling Showperson plot need: Wyre 2022/23 to 2039/40

Period	Need
5yr Authorised Plot Need (2022/23 to 2026/27)	9
Longer-term need	
<i>Over period 2027/28 to 2031/32 (Years 6 to 10)</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Over period 2032/33 to 2036/37 (Years 11 to 15)</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Over period 2037/38 to 2039/40 (Years 16 to 18)</i>	<i>1</i>
Longer-term need TOTAL	4
TOTAL NET NEED 2022/23 to 2039/40	13

Policy recommendations

The councils will need to have regard to the 2023/24 GTAA when undertaking plan-making and plan review, to reflect up-to-date need analysis.

For Gypsies and Travellers

Table ES9 summarises the overall need for residential Gypsy and Traveller Pitches across the Fylde coast.

The councils should review potential supply of residential pitches through considering whether regularisation of sites that are not authorised is appropriate, through assessing the merits of the potential expansion or intensification of existing sites and turnover on the council site in Blackpool.

Table ES9 Summary of residential pitch need to 2040

Summary	Blackpool	Fylde	Wyre	Fylde Coast
Overall need	19	15	-1	33

Notwithstanding evidence in this GTAA on need, additional need may arise over the plan period, for instance from higher numbers of households moving into the Fylde Coast than anticipated. It is therefore recommended that the councils' Local Plans reference the need in the GTAA as a minimum need but sets out policies to inform future planning applications for public and private sites.

For Transit provision

It is recommended that consideration is given to a strategic Fylde Coast response to Gypsy and Traveller unauthorised encampments using negotiated stopping arrangements for smaller encampments (up to 5 caravans), encampments of between 5 and up to 10 caravans and for larger encampments of at least 10 caravans.

For Travelling Showpeople

There is an additional need for a minimum of 13 plots across the Fylde Coast (0 Blackpool 0 Fylde and 13 Wyre). The Showperson community is keen to work with the councils to bring forward new yards. There would be potential to expand the current yard in Wyre through further development of the site. This would help to meet some of the identified needs. However, it is likely that at least one new yard will be required across the Fylde Coast to meet need. There is also potential need arising from households currently living outside the Fylde Coast which would be considered through criteria-based policies.

1. Introduction

Overview

- 1.1 In January 2023 arc⁴ was commissioned by Wyre Borough Council on behalf of Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Borough Councils to prepare the Fylde Coast 2023/24 Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showperson Accommodation Assessment (GTAA). The GTAA is part of the evidence base informing the preparation of the Local Plan for each borough.
- 1.2 The overall scope of the study is to ensure that the councils have a robust evidence base to determine an appropriate level of residential pitch and transit provision over the period 2022/23 to 2039/40 and to identify the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers to meet both the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) - defined need and the council's obligations under section 124 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016.
- 1.3 The role of the study is restricted to the provision of evidence. It will be for the three councils, in both plan-making and decision-taking roles, to determine how and where needs should be met, taking account of all planning considerations.

Whom the study covers

- 1.4 In December 2023, the government announced that it was reverting to the definition of Gypsies and Travellers as set out within Annex 1 of the 2012 PPTS:
'Persons of nomadic habit of life whatever their race or origin, including such persons who on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependants' educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, but excluding members of an organised group of travelling Showpeople [sic] or circus people travelling together as such.'
- 1.1 Similarly, the following definition from Annex 1 of the Guidance in respect of Travelling Showpeople is used:
'Members of a group organised for the purposes of holding fairs, circuses or shows (whether or not travelling together as such). This includes such persons who on the grounds of their own or their family's or dependants' more localised pattern of trading, educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, but excludes Gypsies and Travellers as defined above.'
- 1.5 In addition:
'For the purposes of this planning policy, "pitch" means a pitch on a "gypsy and traveller" site and "plot" means a pitch on a "travelling showpeople" site (often called a "yard"). This terminology differentiates between residential pitches for "gypsies and travellers" and mixed-use pitches for "travelling showpeople", which may/will need to incorporate space or to be split to allow for the storage of equipment.' (MHCLG Planning policy for traveller sites August 2015 Annex 1, para 5).
- 1.6 It should be noted that the government will be reviewing its approach to defining Gypsies and Travellers in 2024.

- 1.7 For the purposes of this study, therefore, Gypsies and Travellers live on pitches within sites, whilst Travelling Showpeople live on plots within yards.

Report structure

- 1.8 The GTAA 2023/24 report structure is as follows:
- **Chapter 1 Introduction:** provides an overview of the study.
 - **Chapter 2 Policy context:** presents a review of the national policy context which guides the study.
 - **Chapter 3 Methodology:** provides details of the study's research methodology.
 - **Chapter 4 Review of the Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population and existing provision of pitches and plots:** reviews estimates of the Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population across the Fylde Coast and existing site/yard provision.
 - **Chapter 5 Household survey findings:** presents relevant data obtained from the household survey research.
 - **Chapter 6 Stakeholder summary**
 - **Chapter 7 Gypsy and Traveller residential pitch and transit need:** focuses on current and future Gypsy and Traveller pitch need. This chapter includes a detailed assessment of drivers of demand, supply and current needs across the Fylde Coast.
 - **Chapter 8 Travelling Showperson plot need:** focuses on current and future Travelling Showperson plot need. This chapter includes a detailed assessment of drivers of demand, supply and current Needs across the Fylde Coast.
 - **Chapter 9 Conclusion and response:** concludes the report, providing brief summary of key findings and recommendations.
- 1.9 The report is supplemented by the following appendices:
- **Appendix A** Household questionnaires.
 - **Appendix B** Glossary of terms.
- 1.10 Data have been presented for individual boroughs and for the Fylde Coast as a whole as appropriate.

2. Policy context

- 2.1 This study is grounded in an understanding of the national legislative and planning policy context that underpins the assessment and provision of accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.
- 2.2 This chapter sets out the policy context within which this GTAA has been prepared, including a consideration of the previous GTAA for the sub-region.

Government policy and guidance

- 2.3 The 2023 National Planning Policy Framework states in Paragraph 63 *‘the size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community should be assessed and reflected in planning policies’*. It then lists a number of groups including Travellers. A footnote to the paragraph states *‘Planning Policy for Traveller Sites sets out how travellers’ housing needs should be assessed for those covered by the definition in Annex 1 of that document’*.
- 2.4 The 2015 Planning Policy for Traveller Site (PPTS) document states that *‘local planning authorities should make their own assessment of need for the purposes of planning’* and *‘ensure that their Local Plan includes fair, realistic and inclusive policies’* and *‘to increase the number of traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply’*.
- 2.5 Policy A of the 2015 PPTS relates to evidence needed to plan positively and manage development. This states *‘in assembling the evidence base necessary to support their planning approach, local planning authorities should:*
- *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 over the lifespan of their development plan, working collaboratively with neighbouring local planning authorities; and*
 - *use a robust evidence base to establish accommodation needs to inform the preparation of local plans and make planning decisions’*.
- 2.6 In the absence of further guidance on preparing GTAAs, the methods adopted by arc⁴ reflect Policy A of the PPTS; build upon those methods established through previous guidance; our practical experience and findings from planning inquiries and appeals.
- 2.7 The calculation of pitch/plot requirements is based on established DLUHC modelling methodology, as advocated in *Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment Guidance* (DCLG, 2007). Although this guidance was formally withdrawn in December 2016, in the absence of any updated guidance on the subject, it continues to provide a good practice approach for needs modelling.

- 2.8 Policy B of the 2015 PPTS relates to planning for traveller sites and requires Local Plans:
- *to be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development and consistent with the policies of the NPPF; and*
 - *to set pitch targets for Gypsies and Travellers and plot targets for Travelling Showpeople as defined in Annex 1 which address the likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs of travellers in their area, working collaboratively with neighbouring local planning authorities.*
- 2.9 Policy B (paragraph 10) sets out that local authorities should, in producing their Local Plan:
- a. *identify and update annually, a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide 5 years' worth of sites against their locally set targets;*
 - b. *identify a supply of specific, developable sites, or broad locations for growth, for years 6 to 10 and, where possible, for years 11-15;*
 - c. *consider production of joint development plans that set targets on a cross-authority basis, to provide more flexibility in identifying sites, particularly if a local planning authority has special or strict planning constraints (local planning authorities have a duty to cooperate on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries);*
 - d. *relate the number of pitches or plots to the circumstances of the specific size and location of the site and the surrounding population's size and density; and*
 - e. *protect local amenity and environment.*
- 2.10 Policy B (paragraph 13) sets out that local authorities should ensure that traveller sites are sustainable economically, socially and environmentally and therefore ensure that their policies:
- a. *promote peaceful and integrated co-existence between the site and the local community;*
 - b. *promote, in collaboration with commissioners of health services, access to appropriate health services;*
 - c. *ensure that children can attend school on a regular basis;*
 - d. *provide a settled base that reduces both the need for long-distance travelling and possible environmental damage caused by unauthorised encampment;*
 - e. *provide for proper consideration of the effect of local environmental quality (such as noise and air quality) on the health and well-being of any travellers who may locate there or on others as a result of new development;*
 - f. *avoid placing undue pressure on local infrastructure and services;*

- g. do not locate sites in areas at high risk of flooding, including functional floodplains, given the particular vulnerability of caravans; and*
- h. reflect the extent to which traditional lifestyles (whereby some travellers live and work from the same location thereby omitting many travel to work journeys) can contribute to sustainability.*

Intentional unauthorised development

- 2.11 The planning policy statement issued with PPTS 2015 on the 31st August 2015 (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/457632/Final_Chief_Planning_Officer_letter_and_written_statement.pdf) and confirmed by Ministerial Statement on the 17th December 2015 (<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2015-12-17/HCWS423>) makes clear that if a site is intentionally occupied without planning permission this would be a material consideration in any retrospective planning application for that site. Whilst this does not mean that retrospective applications will be automatically refused, it does mean that failure to seek permission in advance of occupation will count against the application.
- 2.12 In addition, PPTS 2015 (Paragraph 12) makes clear that in exceptional cases where a local authority is burdened by a large-scale unauthorised site that has significantly increased their need, and their area is subject to strict and special planning constraints, then there is no assumption that the local authority will be required to meet their Gypsy and Traveller site needs in full. This is intended to protect local planning authorities with significant land constraints from being required to provide for additional needs arising directly from large sites such as Dale Farm (a large unauthorised site in Essex).

Defining need

- 2.13 In December 2023, DLUHC announced that the definitions set out in PPTS have now reverted back to those of the 2012 PPTS for plan and decision making. When considering future residential pitch needs, there is no longer a distinction between Gypsies and Travellers who have ceased to travel or continue to live a nomadic habit of life. The government intends to review the approach to this area of policy and case law in 2024.

Previous Fylde Coast GTAA

- 2.14 A GTAA was prepared in 2014 and updated in 2016 to reflect the PPTS 2015 definitional changes.
- 2.15 The 2014 GTAA identified a total need for 81 Gypsy and Traveller pitches over the period 2014-2031 (Blackpool 38, Fylde 26 and Wyre 17) and 14 Travelling Showperson plots (Blackpool 2, Fylde 0 and Wyre 12).
- 2.16 The 2016 update showed a dramatic reduction in need for a net of 3 pitches based on the PPTS 2015 definition (Blackpool 5, Fylde -2 and Wyre 0) and 24 Travelling Showperson plots (Blackpool 5, Fylde 0 and 19 Wyre).

Responding to challenges

- 2.17 GTAA's are subject to intense scrutiny, particularly at planning inquiries and hearings. The methodological approaches taken by arc⁴ aim to maximise the robustness of evidence and measures include:
- An up-to-date assessment of the number of pitches on sites and the number of households living on pitches and any vacancies.
 - Maximising response rates from households.
 - Carefully considering the relationship between households and the pitches they occupy.
 - Analysis of the flows of existing households from and to local authority districts.
 - Consideration of overcrowding and concealed households.
 - Careful consideration of turnover on council / housing association pitches, with clear assumptions over future potential capacity from households moving away from pitches.
 - Longer-term modelling of need using detailed demographic information contained from household survey work.
 - Reasonable assumptions around the number of households in bricks and mortar accommodation who may want to move to a pitch.

3. Methodology

Introduction

- 3.1 The GTAA research method is grounded in an understanding of the requirement of the NPPF and based on an established methodology which regularly withstands scrutiny at planning inquiries and hearings.
- 3.2 The methodology has comprised:
- a desktop analysis of existing documents, including data on pitches / sites, plots / yards and unauthorised encampments;
 - the collection of primary data, including household interviews with Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople; and
 - an assessment of accommodation needs taking into account all available data and information.
- 3.3 The information gathering has been carried out in three phases, as outlined below:
- Phase 1: Literature / desktop review.
 - Phase 2: Survey of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople across the Fylde Coast.
 - Phase 3: Needs assessment and production of the GTAA 2023/24 report.

Phase 1: Literature/desktop review and steering group discussions

- 3.4 We have reviewed relevant literature, including legislative background and best practice information; and analysis of available secondary data relating to Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Boroughs. The research has progressed with input from local authority officers.

Phase 2: Fieldwork survey and interviews with Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

- 3.5 Our aim is to obtain interviews from all households living on sites using a standard questionnaire (Appendix A). This questionnaire has been carefully designed in consultation with the councils, feedback from community representatives and planning agents. Site visits took place in January 2023, with interviews carried out between February and April prior to the start of the travelling season. Follow up interviews were also carried out in September 2023.
- 3.6 A total of 51 Gypsy and Traveller household interviews were achieved and further information from site managers/owners and planning data provide data for 16 households. This results in data for 67 households out of a total of 76 households (88.2% response rate) across the study area.

- 3.7 A total of 4 Travelling Showperson household interviews were achieved plus further information from yard owners for 17 households. This results in data for 21 households compared with a total of 23 households (91.3% response rate).

Phase 3: Needs assessment and production of report

- 3.8 A detailed explanation of Gypsy and Traveller pitch need is presented in Chapter 7 and Travelling Showperson plot need in Chapter 8. In brief, these chapters comprise analysis of the following:
- current pitch/plot supply, households living in bricks and mortar accommodation; households planning to move in the next five years, and emerging households to give total need for pitches; and
 - supply based on the number of authorised pitches/plots and turnover on council sites.
- 3.9 The overall need for pitches/plots is then compared with the overall authorised supply.

Pitches and households

- 3.10 One of the key challenges faced when assessing Gypsy and Traveller pitch requirements is the actual nature of pitches and how this relates to the number of households they can support.
- 3.11 PPTS 2015 refers to the need for local planning authorities to *'identify and update annually, a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide 5 years' worth of sites against their locally set targets' and 'relate the number of pitches/plots to the circumstances of the specific size and location of the site and the surrounding population's size and density'* (PPTS 2015, paragraph 10).
- 3.12 Planning decision notices usually refer to the number of pitches on a site or the specifics of what can be on a pitch e.g., statics, tourers; or specific individuals and/or households.
- 3.13 As part of the GTAA, it is essential that the characteristics of sites, the number of pitches and how many households these can support is carefully considered. There are a range of issues which need to be considered when reviewing site and pitch characteristics and their potential implications for future pitch and site requirements which are now summarised.

Site and pitch size

- 3.14 There are no definitive parameters for site or pitch sizes. Although now withdrawn, the DCLG Designing Gypsy and Traveller sites: good practice guide (2008) states in paragraph 4.4 that *'Gypsy and Traveller sites are designed to provide land per household which is suitable for a mobile home, touring caravan and a utility building, together with space for parking. Sites of various sizes, layouts and pitch numbers operate successfully today and work best when they take into account the size of the site and the needs and demographics of the families resident on them'*.

- 3.15 Paragraph 4.47 states that *‘to ensure fire safety it is essential that every trailer, caravan or park home must be not less than 6 metres from any other trailer, caravan or park home that is occupied separately’*.
- 3.16 Paragraph 7.12 states that *‘as a general guide, it is possible to specify that an average family pitch must be capable of accommodating an amenity building, a large trailer and touring caravan (or two trailers, drying space for clothes, a lockable shed (for bicycles, wheelchair storage etc.), parking space for two vehicles and a small garden area’*.
- 3.17 Paragraph 4.13 states that *‘smaller pitches must be able to accommodate at least an amenity building, a large trailer, drying space for clothes and parking for at least one vehicle’*.

Response

- 3.18 For each site, a pragmatic and reasonable judgement should be made as part of the GTAA regarding the number of pitches or sub-divisions on sites. This may relate to the number of families living on sites and could include a consideration of the potential intensification of sites (for instance through further sub-division, extension or use of vacant areas within the site). Capacity and layout of sites should be identified through site observation (directly or indirectly through Google maps or similar), planning history and local knowledge of planning, enforcement and liaison officers.
- 3.19 Pitches can become intensified or sub-divided once planning applications have been approved. These sub-divisions tend to be tolerated by councils. Often pitches become subdivided to provide space for newly-forming households, particularly from family members. A pitch may accommodate more than one household, for instance it could include a family, older children who have formed their own household and other family members. Therefore the number of pitches on a site may be different to the number of households. The potential for pitch intensification/sub-division was considered on site visits and respondents were asked whether intensification/sub-division was possible on the site they lived on.
- 3.20 For Travelling Showpeople, analysis considers the size of yards and the number of households living on the yard as an indicator of the number of plots on the yard. A plot usually provides for one family unit.

4. Review of the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population and existing provision of pitches and plots

Overview

- 4.1 This chapter looks at the current picture in terms of the current population and demography of Gypsies and Travellers across Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Boroughs before going on to explore the extent and nature of provision across the area.

2011 Census population and household estimates

- 4.2 The 2011 Census (Tables 4.1 and 4.2) identified a total of 339 people in 127 households across the Fylde Coast with a Household Reference Person who identified as having a White Gypsy or Irish Traveller ethnicity. 35.4% of households who identified as Gypsy or Traveller lived in caravans and 64.6% lived in bricks and mortar accommodation.

Table 4.1 People in households identifying as White Gypsy or Irish Traveller by accommodation type

Local Authority	House or bungalow	A flat, maisonette or apartment	A caravan or other mobile or temporary structure	Total: Accommodation type
Blackpool	132	17	87	236
Fylde	7	0	0	7
Wyre	51	1	44	96
Fylde Coast Total	190	18	131	339

Source: 2011 Census CT127

Table 4.2 Households identifying as Gypsy Traveller by accommodation type

Local Authority	House or bungalow	A flat, maisonette or apartment	A caravan or other mobile or temporary structure	Total: Accommodation type
Blackpool	48	11	35	94
Fylde	6	0	0	6
Wyre	16	1	10	27
Fylde Coast Total	70	12	45	127

Source: 2011 Census CT0128

2021 Census population and households

- 4.3 According to the 2021 Census, the Gypsy and Traveller population is similar to that reported in the 2011 Census: now reported as 328. The 2021 population was 230 in Blackpool, 46 in Fylde and 52 in Wyre. In addition, there were 13 people who identified as Roma living in Blackpool.
- 4.4 Across England and Wales, the average Gypsy and Traveller population is 1.06 per 1,000 residents. In Blackpool it was 1.63 per 1,000 residents, Fylde 0.57 and Wyre 0.46.
- 4.5 The 2021 census reports a total of 145 households where the Household Reference Person is a Gypsy or Traveller (Blackpool 100, 10 Fylde and 35 Wyre). The majority (107) of these households were living in bricks and mortar accommodation (70 Blackpool, 9 Fylde and 28 Wyre).

Caravan Count information

- 4.6 Snapshot counts of the number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans were requested by the government in 1979 and have since been undertaken every January and July by local authorities. An annual count of Travelling Showperson caravans takes place every January. The counts provide a source of information on the number of caravans located on authorised and unauthorised sites but do not record the actual number of pitches/plots on sites/yards.
- 4.7 Due to data collection challenges, the data for the Fylde Coast has not been included in this report.

Local sites and yards

- 4.8 Authorised sites are those with planning permission and can be on either public or privately-owned land. Unauthorised sites are made up of either longer-term (approximately three months or longer) unauthorised encampments and can be considered to be indicative of a permanent need for accommodation (in some instances local authorities class these as tolerated sites and do not take enforcement action to remove them); and unauthorised developments, where Travellers are residing upon land that they own and that does not have planning permission (see Appendix B for more detailed definitions).
- 4.9 Across the Fylde Coast there are a total of 21 Gypsy and Traveller sites with 77 pitches (70 occupied and 7 vacant) as of September 2023:

Blackpool	1 council site, 26 pitches (all occupied) 9 private authorised sites, 24 pitches (all occupied)
Fylde	8 private authorised sites, 23 pitches (18 occupied and 5 vacant) 1 unauthorised site, 1 pitch (occupied)
Wyre	1 private authorised site with 2 pitches (2 vacant) 1 unauthorised site, 1 pitch (1 occupied)

- 4.10 Note the former holiday park at Great Birchwood (Fylde) was visited. There were 5, mainly older person, households living there but none were Gypsy and Traveller.
- 4.11 Note that in Wyre there are two additional areas of land called Blueberry Stables and Blueberry Park. Households associated with these sites are currently living outside of Wyre however interviews have still taken place with those associated with the sites (see separate notes on Blueberry Park and Blueberry Stables in section 7).
- 4.12 Across the Fylde Coast there are 4 Travelling Showperson's yards with 27 plots (25 occupied, 1 vacant and 1 plot reserved for emergency accommodation):

Blackpool	2 private authorised yards, 6 plots (5 occupied, 1 not occupied)
Fylde	1 private authorised yard, 2 plots (2 plots occupied by one household)
Wyre	1 private authorised yard with 19 plots (18 occupied and 1 left available for emergency accommodation)

- 4.13 Tables 4.3a-d set out details of Gypsy and Traveller sites and Travelling Showperson yards across the Fylde Coast. The table also shows where there is a variation between the number of households and pitches. Where the number of households exceeds the number of pitches, this is usually due to extended family groups living on one pitch which may be by choice and not necessarily an indication of overcrowding or doubling up. Table 4.4 provides a summary of the data by local authority and for the Fylde Coast overall.
- 4.14 This information provides a transparent base position from which the modelling of future pitch need in section 6 can proceed. However, it should be acknowledged that the existing private sites are mainly for extended family groups and the ability to live on these sites may be restricted.
- 4.15 Please note that on some private sites the number of pitches does not match the number of households because some households occupy more than one pitch which is summarised in Table 4.3.

Table 4.3a List of Gypsy & Traveller residential pitches on sites (as of September 2023)

Local Auth.	Site Code	Gypsy and Traveller Residential sites	Postcode	Status	No. Pitches	Total occupied pitches	Total vacant pitches	Total G&T households	Achieved G&T household interviews	Achieved G&T household information (other sources)*	Total G&T Response	Non-response (not available or refused)
B	BLA1	Chapel Road Traveller Site	FY4 5NQ	Council Authorised	26	26	0	26	24	0	24	2
B	BPriv1	Parkway Stables, Jubilee Lane	FY4 5EP	Private Authorised	2	2	0	1	1		1	0
B	BPriv2	Whalley Lane	FY4 4PW	Private Authorised	11	11	0	12	0	12	12	0
B	BPriv3	Lee Boy's Lodge, Fishers Lane (adjacent no.8)	FY4 5DN	Private Authorised	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
B	BPriv4	Applewood, Jubilee Lane	FY4 5EP	Private Authorised	2	2	0	3	3	0	3	0
B	BPriv5	Holmefield, Jubilee Lane	FY4 5EP	Private Authorised	2	2	0	2	2	0	2	0
B	BPriv6	411 Midgeland Road	FY4 5ED	Private Authorised	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
B	BPriv7	Dominic's Stables, Land adjacent to Greenacres, 161 School Road	FY4 5EL	Private Authorised	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
B	BPriv8	456 Midgeland Road (Land adjacent 433 Midgeland Road)	FY4 5ED	Private Authorised	2	2	0	1	1	0	1	0
B	BPriv9	Statley Lodge, 415 School Road	FY4 5DS	Private Authorised	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0
F	FPriv1	The Conifers, Bangers Lane, Westby	FY4 5LH	Private Authorised	6	6	0	12	4	6	10	2
F	FPriv2	The Stackyard, Bryning Hall Lane	PR4 1TN	Private Authorised	2	2	0	3	0	3	3	0
F	FPriv3	Hill Top Farm, Back Lane, Weeton	PR4 3HS	Private Authorised	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0

Local Auth.	Site Code	Gypsy and Traveller Residential sites	Postcode	Status	No. Pitches	Total occupied pitches	Total vacant pitches	Total G&T households	Achieved G&T household interviews	Achieved G&T household information (other sources)*	Total G&T Response	Non-response (not available or refused)
F	FPriv4	The Old Builder's Yard, Thames Street, Newton	PR4 3RH	Private Authorised	3	0	3	0	0	0		0
F	FPriv5	Gavins Croft, Parrox Lane, Newton	PR4 3RJ	Private Authorised	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
F	FPriv6	Staining Wood Cottages, Preston New Road, Westby	PR4 3PH	Private Authorised	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
F	FPriv7	Fair Bank, Fleetwood Road	PR4 3HJ	Private Authorised	2	2	0	1	1	0	1	0
F	FPriv8 (see note 1)	Angel Lane, Hardhorn	FY6 8DN	Private Authorised	6	6	0	6	4	0	4	3
F	FUnaut h1	Kays Farm, Dagger Road, Treales, Roseacre and Wharles, Preston	PR4 3UU	Unauthorised	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
W	WPriv1	Bowes Hill Stud, Neds Lane, Stalmine	FY6 0LW	Private Authorised	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
W	WUnaut h1	Land East of Bowes Hill Stud, Neds Lane, Stalmine	FY6 0LW	Unauthorised	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
		TOTAL Blackpool			50	50	0	50	33	13	46	4
		TOTAL Fylde			24	19	5	25	11	9	20	6
		TOTAL Wyre			3	1	2	1	1	0	1	0
		GRAND TOTAL Fylde Coast			77	70	7	76	45	22	67**	10

Notes

*Achieved G&T household information (other sources) includes information from site owners/managers and planning application data.

Difference between pitches and households

There is a general assumption that one pitch is occupied by one household. Sometimes, one household may live across more than one pitch or two households may live on a larger pitch. This has been carefully considered in the analysis and results in no net need for additional pitches.

Note 1: FPriv8 Angel Lane 4 interviews were achieved across 3 pitches, with 1 pitch occupied by 2 households.

**This results in the total number of interviews achieved being 67, with 10 non-response but 76 total households.

Table 4.3b List of Gypsy & Traveller transit pitches on sites (as of September 2023)

Local Authority	Site Code	Gypsy and Traveller transit site	Postcode	Status	No. Pitches
B	BTransit1	Chapel Road Traveller Site	FY4 5NQ	Council Authorised	3
		TOTAL Blackpool			3
		TOTAL Fylde			0
		TOTAL Wyre			0
		GRAND TOTAL Fylde Coast			3

Table 4.3c List of Travelling Showperson residential plots on yards (as of September 2023)

Local Auth.	Yard Code	Travelling Showperson Residential Yards	Postcode	Status	No. Plots	Total occupied plots	Total vacant plots	Total TSP households	Achieved TSP household interviews	Achieved TSP household information (other sources)*	Total TSP response	Non-response (not available or refused)
B	BTSP1	Brookeview, 516 Midgeland Road	FY4 5ED	Private Authorised	3	3	0	2	2	0	2	0
B	BTSP2	Land adjacent to Whalley Farm, Whalley Lane	FY4 4PW	Private Authorised	3	2	1	2	0	0	0	2
F	FTSP1	Chain Lane, Staining	FY3 0DD	Private Authorised	2	2	0	1	1	0	1	0
W	WTSP 1	1-20 Guildhall Avenue; 1-3 Conway Farm (Land at Conway), Garstang	PR3 1NL	Private Authorised	19	19**	0	18	1	17	18	0
TOTAL Blackpool					6	5	1	4	2	0	2	2
TOTAL Fylde					2	2	0	1	1	0	1	0
TOTAL Wyre					19	19	0	18	1	17	18	0
GRAND TOTAL Fylde Coast					27	26	1	23	4	17	21	2

Notes

*Interview with yard owner provided details of all households

**Note on WTSP1 one plot is left available for emergency accommodation so it is not vacant

Table 4.3d List of Travelling Showperson transit plots on yards (as of September 2023)

Local Authority	Yard Code	Travelling Showperson Transit Plots	Postcode	Status	No. Plots
W	WTSPTransit1	Land at Conway, Garstang	PR3 1NL	Private	3
		TOTAL Blackpool			0
		TOTAL Fylde			0
		TOTAL Wyre			3
		GRAND TOTAL Fylde Coast			3

Summary of sites and yards

4.16 Table 4.4 summarises the total number of sites and yards across the Fylde Coast by local authority area.

Table 4.4a Summary of Gypsy & Traveller pitches on sites (as of September 2023)

Blackpool

Accommodation setting	No. of sites	Total pitches	Total occupied pitches	Total vacant pitches	Total households	Achieved household information	Non-response (not available or refused)
Local Authority site	1	26	26	0	26	24	2
Private Authorised site	9	24	24	0	24	22	2
Private temporary authorised site	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unauthorised	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gypsy and Traveller Total	10	50	50	0	50	46	4

Fylde

Accommodation setting	No. of sites	Total pitches	Total occupied pitches	Total vacant pitches	Total households	Achieved household information	Non-response (not available or refused)
Local Authority site	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private Authorised site	8	23	18	5	24	20	5
Private temporary authorised site	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unauthorised	1	1	1	0	1	0	1
Gypsy and Traveller Total	9	24	19	5	25	20	6

Wyre

Accommodation setting	No. of sites	Total pitches	Total occupied pitches	Total vacant pitches	Total households	Achieved household information	Non-response (not available or refused)
Local Authority site	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private Authorised site	1	2	0	2	0	0	0
Private temporary authorised site	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unauthorised (private)	1	1	1	0	1	1	0
Gypsy and Traveller Total	2	3	1	2	1	1	0

Fylde Coast Total

Accommodation setting	No. of sites	Total pitches	Total occupied pitches	Total vacant pitches	Total households	Achieved household information	Non-response (not available or refused)
Local Authority site	1	26	26	0	26	24	2
Private Authorised site	18	49	42	7	48	42	7
Private temporary authorised site	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unauthorised	2	2	2	0	2	1	1
Gypsy and Traveller Total	21	77	70	7	76	67	10

Table 4.4b Summary of Travelling Showperson plots on yards (as of September 2023)**Blackpool**

Accommodation setting	No. of yards	Total plots	Total occupied plots	Total vacant plots	Total households	Interview achieved
Private Authorised yard and Travelling Showperson Total	2	6	5	1	5	2

Fylde

Accommodation setting	No. of yards	Total plots	Total occupied plots	Total vacant plots	Total households	Interview achieved
Private Authorised yard Travelling Showperson Total	1	2	2	0	1	1

Wyre

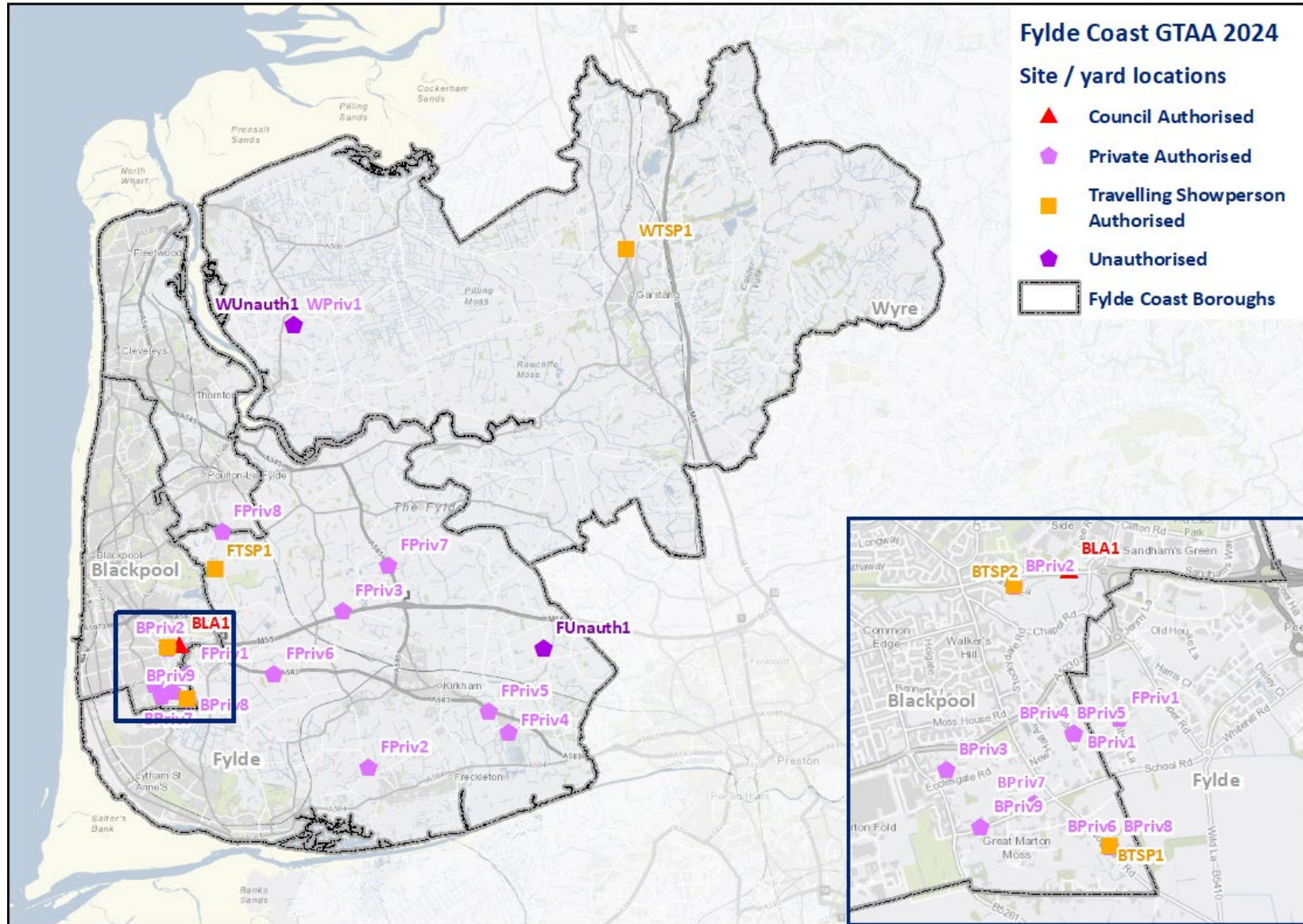
Accommodation setting	No. of yards	Total plots	Total occupied plots*	Total vacant plots	Total households	Interview plus data from site owner
Private Authorised yard Travelling Showperson Total	1	19	18	0	18	1 interview + 17 from site owner info.

Fylde Coast Total

Accommodation setting	No. of sites/yards	Total plots	Total occupied plots*	Total vacant plots	Total households	Interview plus data from site owner
Private Authorised yard Travelling Showperson Total	4	27	25	1	24	4 interviews + 17 from site owner info.

*One plot is reserved for emergency use so it is not vacant but also not permanently occupied.

Map 4.1 Location of Gypsy and Traveller sites and Travelling Showperson's yards on the Fylde Coast



5. Household survey findings

- 5.1 This chapter presents the findings of the household survey, which was carried out to provide primary data to inform this GTAA. The survey aimed to reach as many Gypsy and Traveller and households living in the study area as possible. It was conducted using the questionnaire presented in Appendix A.

Gypsy and Traveller households living on the Fylde Coast

- 5.2 A review of the characteristics of Gypsy and Traveller households living across the Fylde Coast has been based on data from a total of 67 households was obtained as part of the 2023 household survey. Of this number, 45 households were interviewed and information for 22 households was provided by site managers/owners, from planning data and knowledge of council officers.
- 5.3 For the purposes of this analysis, data on households currently living on sites across the Fylde Coast is presented, with an overall base of 67.
- 5.4 Note that some respondents did not answer all questions. The number of responses achieved for different questions is shown using the term 'base'. For example base=45, means a total of 45 survey responses were received and reported. The household data are presented in a manner which maintains respondent confidentiality. For this reason, data for all households across the Fylde Coast is presented. If analysis refers to 'small numbers' this means 4 or fewer households responding to a question.
- 5.5 **Ethnicity** (base=45): Of households interviewed 95.6% described themselves as Gypsy (including Romany, Romany Gypsy and English Gypsy) and 4.4% as Irish Traveller.
- 5.6 **Household size** (base=51): 29.4% of households were single person; 25.5% two-person; 13.7% three-person; 13.7% four-person, 9.8% five-person and 7.9% six or more people.
- 5.7 **Household type** (base=51): 29.4% were singles, 21.6% were single parents, 21.6% were couples, 19.6% were couples with child(ren) which can include non-dependent children and 7.8% were multi-adult families or extended families, such as couples with siblings living with them.
- 5.8 **Age profile**: The household survey identified a total of 142 Gypsies and Travellers living on sites on the Fylde Coast. The age profile is: 32.4% were aged 13 or under, 7.0% aged 14-17, 18.3% aged 18-34, 22.5% aged 35-49, 11.3% aged 50-64 and 8.5% aged 65 and over.
- 5.9 **Length of residence** (base=41): 14.6% had lived at their current place of residence for less than 5 years, 19.5% between 5 and less than 10 years, 17.1% between 10 and less than 15 years, 2.5% between 15 and less than 20 years and 46.3% for 20 years or more.
- 5.10 **Overcrowding**: When asked if their home was overcrowded (base=43), 97.7% said no and 2.3% said yes. When asked whether their pitch was overcrowded (base=42), 100% said no.
- 5.11 **Regarding the need for more residential pitches** (base=41), respondents were asked if they felt there was a need for more pitches. This was to gauge

local views on need and does not influence the needs assessment modelling carried out. 51.2% said there was a need for more and 48.8% said no more pitches were needed. Of those stating a number (base=21), 42.9% said less than 5 pitches, 14.3% said at least 5 pitches but 42.8% did not know.

Support needs

- 5.12 Respondents were asked if they or any member of their household had any health-related needs. Most said no although a small number mentioned specific health issues.
- 5.13 When asked about adaptations in the home, six households mentioned better heating in their caravan and sheds.
- 5.14 No-one mentioned a specific need for health-related support such as occupational therapy, pregnancy support and counselling.

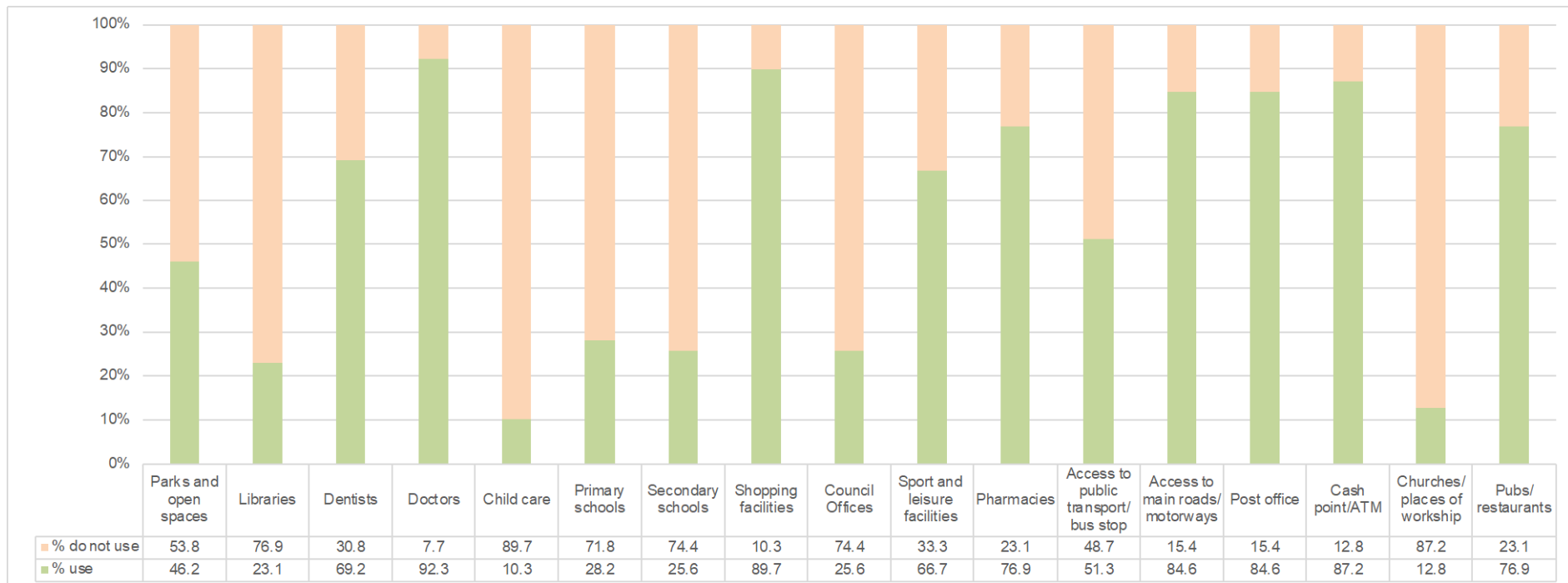
Education and training

- 5.15 Respondents were asked if they or someone in their household needed support with education or training. Four households mentioned help for children of primary school age. Two of those households mentioned a need for help with English, Maths and IT skills.

Access to services

- 5.16 Respondents were asked about local facilities and whether they are used, have difficulties accessing them or if they are not needed. Those responding to this question (base=40) either stated they used them or they were not needed (Figure 5.1).

Figure 5.1 Local facilities and their use/accessibility across the Fylde Coast



Source: 2023 household survey

- 5.17 At least 70% of respondents said they used a doctor, shopping facilities, pharmacies, post offices, cash points and pubs/restaurants. 85% said they had access to main roads/motorways but 49% said they had access to public transport.
- 5.18 Services least likely to be accessed (by fewer than 20% of households) included childcare and churches/places of worship.
- 5.19 Overall, 72% of respondents had internet access in their home.

Site improvements

- 5.20 The household survey asked respondents if there were any improvements they would like to see or were considering on their sites. Respondents were also asked if there were any necessary or critical improvements needed on their site.
- 5.21 All households on private sites said there was no improvements they would like to see. Table 5.1 specifically relates to responses from households living the Chapel Road council site in Blackpool. The most frequently mentioned improvements were better or more washing/laundry facilities, better or more toilet facilities, landscaping and better fencing.

Table 5.1 Improvements to council site in Blackpool

Improvement	% of respondents
Better or more washing/laundry facilities	45.8
Better or more toilet facilities	37.5
Landscaping	29.2
Better fencing	25.0
Improvements to sheds	20.8
More pitches	12.5
Better or more parking	12.5
Visitor space	12.5
Better refuse storage	12.5
Better security/site safety (e.g. CCTV)	8.3
Better access roads/access to highway	8.3
Communal buildings	8.3
Making sites more accessible for people with disabilities	4.2
Better or more storage facilities/workshops	4.2
Fewer pitches	0.0
Larger pitches	0.0
Lorry Parking	0.0
Base: 24 responses	

- 5.22 Only two households stated there were critical improvements needed to their site: one related to providing a children's play area and one related to improved security. The issue of improved security and CCTV was also mentioned by some households living at the Chapel Road site at the end of the survey.

Travelling Showperson households living on the Fylde Coast

- 5.23 Information from a total of 21 Travelling Showperson households on the Fylde Coast were obtained through interviews on yards in Blackpool and Fylde and detailed discussions with the yard owner of Guildhall Avenue and Conway's farm in Cabus, Wyre Borough
- 5.24 Full household interviews were achieved with 3 households, with demographic information on 18 further households obtained.
- 5.25 The following demographic profile of Travelling Showpeople living across the Fylde Coast was obtained through surveys and discussion
- 5.26 **Household size** (base=21): 23.8% of households were single person; 38.1% two-person; 9.5% three-person; 19% four-person, 9.5% five or more-person.
- 5.27 **Household type** (base=21): 23.8% were singles, 19% were single parents, 23.8% were couples, 28.6% were couples with child(ren) which can include non-dependent children and 4.8% were multi-adult families or extended families, such as couples with parent(s) living with them.
- 5.28 Because most data collected was through discussions with site owners, detailed information on age profile, length of residence, overcrowding and the need for more yards was not collected.

6. Stakeholder summary

- 6.1 As part of our research, arc⁴ contacted a range of stakeholders to obtain feedback on Gypsy and Traveller matters which is now summarised. Please note these are the views and opinions of stakeholders and not necessarily the views of the councils or arc⁴. The stakeholders were: 2 local councillors, 5 local authority officers from the Fylde Coast and Lancashire County Council, 1 neighbouring local authority to the Fylde Coast, 3 parish or town councils and 1 social housing provider.

Residential Pitch Need: Gypsies and Travellers

- 6.2 There are mixed views from stakeholders on the need for permanent residential pitches. Some stakeholders are not aware of how many sites there are and therefore how many more are needed. However, there was a general consensus that there are a lack of pitches for families which is evident in the number of illegal encampments seen and reported in the area.
- 6.3 One Fylde Coast local authority officer commented that some people buy land without permission and residents next to sites are unable to object as there is no planning permission in place. Councils do not seem to have the ability to move people on from sites without planning permission once they are established.
- 6.4 Over the past 5 years a social housing provider commented that the Housing Options Team in Blackpool has received 29 housing applications from applicants who describe themselves as Gypsy, Romany, Irish Traveller. There are currently 6 live housing applications and only 2 of them are considered 'priority need' for housing.
- 6.5 Stakeholders were generally supportive of the approach that the councils are taking in assessing and identifying future needs, with one councillor commenting a need to 'provide the right spaces in the right places for all those involved.'

Potential locations for permanent sites

- 6.6 A Fylde Coast local authority officer commented that the three boroughs cover an extensive geographical area and so any pitches and sites need to be spread across the whole area to maximise the use of the available land.
- 6.7 A Fylde Coast local authority officer highlighted significant areas of open land to the north the borough (Blackpool) around Faraday Way and to the south on Marton Moss as potential site locations.
- 6.8 A Fylde Coast local authority officer commented that pitches should be located on the periphery of the larger settlements where there is better access to the support services that these communities need.

Potential barriers to permanent sites

- 6.9 Land and funding are two key barriers identified by a social housing stakeholder to permanent sites. There is a lack of available land to build sites on.

- 6.10 A Fylde Coast local authority officer highlighted that applications always generate concerns amongst the settled community with many local groups and neighbours not wanting sites located near to them. Retrospective applications are also a barrier in the assessment of sites as it makes a balanced consideration less straightforward.
- 6.11 The perceived behaviour of Travellers is another potential barrier identified by a town/parish councillors with the biggest problems identified as littering, poor sanitation and unpredictable behaviour. Stakeholders commented that there are sites where the Travellers are well behaved and keep the place tidy. However these are the very people who have gone through planning and engaged with the residents. It is the constant minor infringements that annoy people. For example, dirt bikes on the road and on the green spaces and the aggressive behaviour if something is said.

Residential Plot Need: Travelling Showpeople

- 6.12 Stakeholders have a limited knowledge of the need for more permanent residential plots for Travelling Showpeople across the Fylde Coast. General responses included, 'there is no local knowledge of current need and provision to enable a detailed response,' from a neighbouring council officer.
- 6.13 A Fylde Coast local authority officer said that Fylde Council receives very few queries about this type of accommodation but there is support for the councils to identify sufficient land to meet any identified need in their area.
- 6.14 A Fylde Coast local authority officer was keen to emphasise that where permanent sites are needed, they should be located across the three local planning authorities, with potentially more in Wyre and Fylde due to more available land.
- 6.15 A Fylde Coast local authority officer said there may be sites on the periphery of established employment areas that may be suitable in terms of having appropriate vehicular access and a character that would lend itself to both living and working on the site.
- 6.16 There is general support from a neighbouring council officer for the councils to seek and provide sufficient land to meet the identified need within their administrative boundaries.
- 6.17 The main barriers to the provision of new permanent yards highlighted by a social housing stakeholder and Fylde Coast local authority officer included: lack of available land, funding, opposition from local groups and neighbours not wanting sites located near to them.
- 6.18 Whilst interviewing Travelling Showpeople on the Fylde Coast, information came to light regarding five households who live in Greater Manchester but work in Blackpool. It was recounted through an interview that these households aspire to live closer to their work in Blackpool. However these households fall outwith the study area they are not included in the formal calculation of need. The inclusion of a criteria-based policy would provide the policy framework to consider any windfall applications if they were to come forward.

Gypsy and Traveller unauthorised encampments and the need for temporary provision

- 6.19 A Fylde Coast council officer and county stakeholder identified a number of unauthorised sites, with most going on to secure planning permission. Camps are very ad hoc so there is not always an awareness of them.
- 6.20 A county council stakeholder commented that each area deals with camps in very different ways, depending on whether the land is council or private land. They also commented Planning Enforcement at Blackpool Council has dealt with numerous unauthorised encampments over the years, but none for a while. A local authority officer commented there is also unauthorised sub-division of pitches on sites which is less straightforward to control given the varied nature of accommodation.
- 6.21 A social housing provider reported an influx every year, from around April through to September, where there is an increase in evictions from unauthorised encampments. Encampments cause a number of issues including, waste, damage to the land and rubbish. There is also the distress element to the local community as they cannot use their green space to its full advantage.
- 6.22 A Fylde Coast local authority officer alleged there are several unauthorised encampments on Marton Moss which are known to the council..
- 6.23 A county council officer reported that often Gypsy and Traveller families are treated very negatively. There is a lack of understanding of their way of life combined with the lack of provision which results in them staying on roadside pieces of land.
- 6.24 For households travelling through the Fylde Coast, there are several potential options which could be considered.

Transit sites

- 6.25 A Fylde Coast local authority officer stated there are three transit pitches on the Fylde Coast, all of which are located in Blackpool. Although sites would need to be managed to prevent them from becoming permanent sites and to prevent nuisances from occurring, perhaps applying the same rules that apply to caravan parks – transit provision could lead to fewer illegal encampments.
- 6.26 A county council officer highlighted that Transit sites would allow families to park safely and legally, enabling them to see to their children before moving on. These sites would reduce and even eliminate any removal and clear up costs.
- 6.27 A neighbouring council officer commented that the recent Central Lancashire GTAA identified a need for transit provision based on encampment data provided by each of the three councils. There is a need to jointly consider how to meet this need going forward.

Temporary stop-over places

- 6.28 Fylde Coast council officers have an awareness of occasional trespass onto council sports pitches and car parks.

- 6.29 A Fylde Coast council officer agreed that temporary stop-over places sound like a good idea in theory, but the identification of locations would be a challenge. A county council officer commented that the management of sites would also be difficult and could encourage unauthorised encampments.
- 6.30 A neighbouring council officer suggested said the Fylde Coast area should consider what approach would work best for their area to meet any potential need.

Barriers to transit provision

- 6.31 Fylde Coast council officers identified a number of barriers to transit provision which include the lack of available land in a suitable location, neighbour objections with regards to the impact on the local community and the behaviour of Travellers.
- 6.32 Broader concerns raised by a neighbouring council officer include: knowledge of where the provision should be located to meet needs from a neighbouring council officer, how to encourage the use of such sites, site management and the reluctance to move families on with time limited provision.
- 6.33 A Fylde Coast council officer reported that existing caravan parks are unable to accommodate the large numbers of Travellers that travel together and many pitches are booked a year in advance.

Gypsies and Travellers in bricks and mortar accommodation and on residential caravan sites

- 6.34 A county council officer reported that there are some families who have always lived in housed accommodation. Those that live in bricks and mortar are usually owner occupied dwellings or private rented properties. The general thinking is that bricks and mortar is preferable due to inadequate provision on sites leading to a deterioration in health.
- 6.35 A county council officer commented that access to housing is generally through the local housing officer to enable movement within family groups. In terms of known locations, a parish/town councillor noted several residential caravan sites in and around the Singleton parish. One site in Singleton was recently acquired and is now run by Travellers, with another one in the planning process in Weeton. Fylde Coast council officers commented that Marton Moss area (covering mainly Blackpool and some of Fylde) is a general focus for the community and is home to many Gypsy and Traveller people living in bricks and mortar, some of which are living in converted stables without planning permission.

Access to facilities, services and unmet needs

- 6.36 Stakeholders identified a number of unmet needs including parish/town councillors mentioned access to schooling and medical facilities. This has been exacerbated by recent housing developments combined with the increase in residential caravan sites in the area.

- 6.37 A county council officer reported that access to health services is very 'hit and miss' depending on the area. Gypsy and traveller families are often turned away from GP practices when trying to access help. The application process is electronic which can create further barriers for some families. A parish/town councillor felt that waiting times to see a GP either in Poulton-le-Fylde or Great Eccleston is now a real problem.
- 6.38 A county council officer identified challenges in providing access to education for mobile families, as the process is online and can take several weeks. Another example shared by a town/parish councillor is Singleton Primary School which only has 104 places; it is full and over-subscribed.
- 6.39 A social housing provider commented that site safety and a play area for children were recently highlighted as areas of need by the residents of Chapel Road.

Movement and cross-boundary considerations.

- 6.40 A Fylde Coast council officer commented that the Fylde Coast forms part of the Traveller Heritage Trail. Many Travellers travel through the area each summer, often on the way to or from the Appleby Fair.
- 6.41 A county council officer commented that any Traveller encampments often cross over the boundary of each authority during the spring and summer months with the same families seen across a number of boroughs. Families communicate with each other and will often move together between the boroughs. A parish/town councillor noted a fairground is also in Kirkham every year.
- 6.42 A county council officer identified the process, actions and treatment of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople are very different across each borough in terms of occupation of private land and local authority land. A Fylde Coast council officer commented if there was a network of transit sites, there would be benefits in coordinating movements between them.
- 6.43 Town/parish council and neighbouring council stakeholders welcomed more cross-boundary discussions between the borough councils with regards to planning and infrastructure, which includes the 2023/24 GTAA to understand the actual need for all three local planning authorities.

Key strategic messages

- 6.44 Stakeholders shared a number of key strategic messages to ensure a clear direction with regards to Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showperson Accommodation across the Fylde Coast.
- 6.45 Stakeholders wanted a fair and mutually agreed assessment which takes into account all residents of the three borough councils providing clarity over the quantum of pitch provision that is needed within the next five years. This would be an important starting point for both permanent residential pitches and transit sites.
- 6.46 Stakeholders suggested that there needs to be a clear understanding of what would constitute an 'appropriate site' to ensure secure provision for all families, whether homes are a caravan or bricks and mortar accommodation. There also

needs to be a greater understanding and availability of funding opportunities to improve amenities on sites.

- 6.47 Working with wider community groups would raise the profile and awareness of the Gypsy and Traveller culture, to ensure any discriminatory practice or racism is dealt with appropriately. The enforcement of the 'rules of society' by both the council and police would ensure law abiding citizens are not disturbed or abused.
- 6.48 Some stakeholders stated that identified needs should be met within authority boundaries and not look for neighbouring areas to meet this need. Each borough should have provision of health, education and advice for Gypsy and Traveller families.

Contributing to the Duty to Cooperate with neighbouring authorities as set out in Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act

- 6.49 Preston City Council stated that if the study identified any cross boundary issues they would welcome a discussion, particularly if the councils are not proposing to meet their need.

7. Gypsy and Traveller residential pitch and transit site need

Introduction

- 7.1 This section reviews the overall pitch requirements of Gypsies and Travellers and across the Fylde Coast. It takes into account current supply and need, as well as future need, based on modelling of data. This chapter also considers transit pitch requirements for Gypsies and Travellers. Finally, the chapter presents planning policy recommendations.
- 7.2 The calculation of pitch requirements is based on modelling as advocated in *Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment Guidance (DCLG, 2007)*. Although now formally withdrawn, the former DCLG guidance still provides the best-practice approach towards the assessment of pitch and plot needs (see Chapter 2 for further discussion).
- 7.3 This approach requires an assessment of the current needs of Gypsies and Travellers and a projection of future needs. It advocates the use of a survey to supplement secondary source information and derive key supply and demand information.

Gypsy and Traveller pitch requirement model overview

- 7.4 Pitch need is assessed for two time periods. A short-term 5-year model looks at need over the next five years (2022/23 to 2026/27). A longer-term model looks at need over the remainder of the plan period (to 2039/40) arising from children likely to need a pitch.
- 7.5 In terms of **need**, the 5-year model considers:
- the baseline number of households on all types of site (authorised, unauthorised and temporary authorised sites) as of September 2023;
 - existing households planning to move in the next five years (currently on sites and also from bricks and mortar) and where they are planning to move to; and
 - emerging households currently on sites and planning to emerge in the next five years and stay within the study area on a pitch; to derive a figure for total pitch need.
- 7.6 In terms of **supply**, the model considers:
- total supply of current pitches on authorised sites; and
 - vacant pitches on authorised sites.
- 7.7 The model then reconciles total need and existing authorised supply over the next five years by summarising:
- total need for pitches; and
 - total supply of authorised pitches.

- 7.8 The longer-term model then considers the need over the period to 2039/40. This is based on the age profile of children under 13 living in Gypsy and Traveller households on pitches (the longer-term model).

Blackpool Borough pitch need analysis: Description of factors in the 5-year need model

- 7.9 Table 7.1 provides a summary of the 5-year pitch need calculation for Blackpool Borough. Each component in the model is now discussed to ensure that the process is transparent and any assumptions clearly stated.

Need

Current households living on pitches (Table row 1)

- 7.10 These figures are derived from council data and site observation data. In summary there are a total of 50 households living on pitches (See Table 7.1)

Current households in bricks and mortar accommodation (Table row 2)

- 7.11 An estimate of households in bricks and mortar is provisional based on the 2021 Census. The 2011 Census indicated 236 people and 94 households identifying as Gypsy/Traveller of whom 70% lived in bricks and mortar. The comparable 2021 population count is similar at 230 and there were 100 household reference people identifying as Gypsy and Traveller. Of the 2021 Census Gypsy and Traveller population, 31.4% live in caravans and 68.6% lived in bricks and mortar accommodation. This implies that around 69 households live in bricks and mortar accommodation.

Weighting of data

- 7.12 Survey data have been weighted to take account of non-response households. For Gypsy and Traveller households the weighting is 50 (total households) divided by 46 (total responses) = 1.087.

Table 7.1 Summary of demand and supply factors: Blackpool Borough Gypsies and Travellers – 2022/23 to 2026/27

PITCH NEED			Blackpool Borough
1	Households living on pitches	1a. On LA Site	26
		1b. On Private Site – Authorised	24
		1c. Unauthorised	0
		1d. Total (1a to 1c)	50
2	Estimate of households living in bricks and mortar accommodation	2021 Census estimate	70
		Weighting for non-response	1.087
3	Existing households planning to move in next 5 years or on unauthorised site	Currently on sites	
		3a. To another pitch/same site (no net impact)	0.0
		3b. To another site in district (no net impact)	0.0
		3c. From site to bricks and mortar (-)	0.0
		3d. To site/bricks and mortar outside district	0.0
		Currently in Bricks and Mortar	
		3f. Planning to move to a site in LA (+)	0.0
		3g. Planning to move to another B&M property (no net impact)	0.0
		In-migrant households	
		3h. Allowance for in-migration (+)	0.0
	3i. TOTAL Net impact (-3c-3d+3f+3h)	0.0	
4	Emerging households (5 years)	4a. Currently on site and planning to live on current site	2.2
		4b. Current on site and planning to live on another site in the district	0.0
		4c. Currently on site and planning to live outside the district	0.0
		4d. Currently in B&M planning to move to a site in LA (+)	0.0
		4e. Currently in B&M and moving to B&M (no net impact)	0.0
		4f. Currently on Site and moving to B&M (no net impact)	0.0
		4g. TOTAL (4a+4b+4d)	2.2
		5	Total Need
SUPPLY			
6	Current supply of authorised pitches	6a Current supply of occupied permanently authorised pitches occupied by Gypsies and Travellers	50
		6b. Current authorised pitches which are vacant	0
		6c. Total current authorised supply (6a+6b)	50
RECONCILING NEED AND SUPPLY			
7	Total need for pitches	5 years (from 5)	52
8	Total supply of authorised pitches	5 years (from 6c)	50
5-YEAR AUTHORISED PITCH NEED 2022/23 TO 2026/27			2

Existing households planning to move in the next five years (Table row 3)

- 7.13 This was derived from information from the 2023 household survey for respondents currently on pitches. Of existing households currently on sites, the household survey indicates that none plan to move in the next 5 years. This is the sum of rows 3a to 3d.
- 7.14 For households currently in bricks and mortar, arc⁴ GTAA's usually estimate that 5.3% of households living in bricks and mortar would prefer to live on a site which would equate to 3.7 households. However, as we have attempted extensive engagement with households living in bricks and mortar, none were willing to participate in the study and it can be reasonably assumed that there is therefore no emerging need for pitches from bricks and mortar households.
- 7.15 The needs model considers migration but need arising through future in-migration should be met through a criteria-based policy.
- 7.16 The factors presented in section 3 of the model result in an overall net requirement of 0.0 pitches from existing households planning to move.

Emerging households (Table row 4)

- 7.17 This is the number of households expected to emerge in the next 5 years based on 2023 household survey information. The total number is +2.2 (weighted). If young people aged 18 and over were living with family and have not specified that they want to form a new household, this is assumed to be through choice and the model does not assume they want to form a new household. The model however does factor in need from 13 to 17 year olds who are likely to emerge in the next 5 years but had not indicated this on the household survey.

Total need for pitches (Table row 5)

- 7.18 This is a total of current households on authorised pitches, households on pitches planning to move in the next five years and demand from emerging households currently living on pitches. This indicates a total need for 52 pitches (50 existing households on pitches plus a net need for 0 (weighted) pitches from existing households planning to move including in-migration and a need for 2.2 (weighted) pitches from emerging households).

Supply

Current supply of authorised pitches (Table row 6)

- 7.19 This is a summary of the total number of authorised pitches occupied by Gypsies and Travellers and the number of vacant authorised pitches.
- 7.20 There is a total supply of 50 authorised pitches. Of these 50 are occupied and zero are vacant.
- 7.21 It is also important to note there is a small net difference of households to pitches due to some households living on more than one pitch.

Reconciling supply and need

- 7.22 There is a total need over the next five years (2022/23 to 2026/27) for 52 pitches in Blackpool Borough (row 7) compared with a supply of 50 authorised pitches. The result is an overall need of 2 pitches.

Longer-term pitch requirement modelling

- 7.23 Longer-term pitch need modelling has been carried out using known household structure information from the household survey of households living on pitches. On the basis of the age of children in households, it is possible to determine the extent of 'likely emergence', which assumes that a child is likely to form a new household at the age of 18.
- 7.24 The year when a child reaches 18 has been calculated and it is possible to assess how many newly forming households may emerge over the period 2027/28 to 2039/40. A reasonable assumption is that half of these children will form new households, bearing in mind culturally women tend to move away on marriage and men tend to stay in close proximity to their families on marriage. The model therefore assumes that 50% of children will form households when they reach 18 and that these households remain in Blackpool Borough. This approach has been tested at inquiry and the assumption has been corroborated by several Travelling interviewees. Analysis would suggest a total need for 17 additional pitches over the period 2027/28-2039/40 (Table 7.2)

Table 7.2 Future pitch requirements based on the assumption that 50% of children will require a pitch in Blackpool Borough

Time period	No. children (weighted)	No. pitches (rounded)
2027/28 to 2031/32 (5 years) (Years 6 to 10)	11	5
2032/33 to 2036/37 (5 years) (Years 11 to 15)	8	4
2037/38 to 2039/40 (3 years) (Years 16 to 18)	15	8
Total (2027/28 to 2039/40) (13 years)	34	17

Overall plan period pitch need

- 7.25 Table 7.3 summarises the overall need for pitches across Blackpool Borough over the plan period 2022/23 to 2039/40. Need has been assessed over a short-term 2022/23 to 2026/27 and longer-term 2027/28 to 2039/40 period. The overall need is 19 (2 in the short-term and 17 in the longer-term) The main driver of need in the first five years is new household formation.

Table 7.3 Gypsy and Traveller pitch need: Blackpool Borough 2022/23 to 2039/40

Period	Pitch need
5yr Authorised Pitch Need (2022/23 to 2026/27) (A)	2
Longer-term need	
Over period 2027/28 to 2031/32 (Years 6 to 10) (B)	5
Over period 2032/33 to 2036/37 (Years 11 to 15) (C)	4
Over period 2037/38 to 2039/40 (Years 16 to 18) (D)	8
Longer-term need TOTAL to 2039/40 (13 years) E=(B+C+D)	17
NET NEED 2022/23 to 2039/40 (A+E) (18 years)	19
Annual net Need	1.06

Potential capacity for Gypsy and Traveller pitches on existing sites

Turnover on sites

- 7.26 Turnover relates to the number of pitches that are expected to become available for occupancy. Analysis only includes expected turnover on public sites as this is referenced in (former) MHCLG guidance and more accurate data on changes in pitch occupancy is likely to be available. Although there is likely to be turnover on private sites, the ability of households to move onto private sites may be more restrictive (for instance the site may be restricted to a particular family) and less likely to be recorded.
- 7.27 2 households living on council pitches had moved to their pitch in the past 5 years based on 24 interviews. This equates to a turnover of 8.3%. Applied to 26 pitches would result in a turnover of 2 pitches over a 5-year period. This is factored into pitch need analysis.

Regularisation of existing sites and new sites

- 7.28 All sites in Blackpool are permanent authorised so there is no scope for regularising non-permanent sites.

Potential for additional pitches on existing sites

- 7.29 Survey respondents suggested potential for additional pitches on existing sites. Through discussions with residents on council sites and private site owners, the GTAA identified a total of between 8 and 10 potential pitches (Table 7.4). It is recommended that the council reflect upon the potential for additional pitches on sites as a way of helping to meet need and whether this can be achieved in planning terms by factoring in wider planning considerations.
- 7.30 These could be brought forward to help meet immediate or longer-term need. It is likely that these pitches will help meet need arising from newly-forming households already living on particular sites. However, 65% of newly-arising need is from households living on the Chapel Road council site and this is unlikely to be met through additional pitches on private sites unless there is already a family connection with the private site owners.

Table 7.4 Potential additional pitches on existing sites and caravan parks to meet Gypsy and Traveller need: Blackpool Borough

Site Code	Site Location	Number of additional pitches
BPriv3	Lee Boys Lodge	3
BPriv1	Parkway Stables	2 to 3
BLA1	Chapel Road	3 to 4
TOTAL		8 to 10

Vacant pitches on private and public sites

7.31 There were no vacancies on private or public sites.

Impact of turnover, regularisation and additional pitches on overall need.

7.32 The overall plan period need is 19 pitches (2 short-term and 17 longer-term).

7.33 There is a potential supply of additional pitches through:

- Turnover on council site of 2 pitches every 5 years (7 over the period to 2039/40)
- Potential expansion/intensification (8 to 10 pitches)

7.34 This potential supply could provide between 15 and 17 pitches. This has the potential to largely meet need arising over the plan period but it is likely an additional site may be required to meet longer-term need, particularly as much of this need is arising from the Chapel Road Council site.

7.35 Further work is recommended to review the potential for additional pitch development on existing sites highlighted above in paragraph 7.33.

7.36 Notwithstanding evidence in this GTAA on need, additional need may arise over the plan period, for instance households moving into the borough. It is therefore recommended that the Local Plan references the need in the GTAA as a minimum need but sets out criteria-based policies to inform future planning applications for private sites should they arise.

7.37 It is implicit in this study that the needs arising from the private family sites will be met either through the use of vacant pitches on those sites or through new site provision. No turnover is assumed on private sites but over the plan period this may help provide pitches for occupation by Gypsies and Travellers in housing need.

Tenure preferences

7.38 A review of the current tenure profile of households expecting to form either in the short or longer-term results in a 55% council and 45% private tenure profile.

Fylde Borough pitch need analysis: Description of factors in the 5-year need model

- 7.39 Table 7.5 provides a summary of the 5-year pitch need calculation for Fylde Borough. Each component in the model is now discussed to ensure that the process is transparent and any assumptions clearly stated.

Need

Current households living on pitches (Table row 1)

- 7.40 These figures are derived from council data and site observation data. In summary there are a total of 25 households living on pitches (See Table 7.5).

Current households in bricks and mortar accommodation (Table row 2)

- 7.41 An estimate of households in bricks and mortar is provisional based on the 2021 Census. The 2011 Census indicated 7 people and 6 households identifying as Gypsy/Traveller of whom 100% lived in bricks and mortar. The comparable 2021 population count is higher at 46 and there are 15 household reference people identifying as Gypsy and Traveller. Of the 2021 Census Gypsy and Traveller population, 40% live in caravans and 60% live in bricks and mortar accommodation. This implies a total that around 9 households live in bricks and mortar accommodation.

Weighting of data

- 7.42 Survey data have been weighted to take account of non-response households. For Gypsy and Traveller households the weighting is 25 (total households) divided by 20 (total responses) = 1.25

Table 7.5 Summary of demand and supply factors: Fylde Borough Gypsies and Travellers – 2022/23 to 2026/27

PITCH NEED			Fylde Borough
1	Households living on pitches	1a. On LA Site	0
		1b. On Private Site – Authorised	24
		1c. Unauthorised	1
		1d. Total (1a to 1c)	25
2	Estimate of households living in bricks and mortar accommodation	2021 Census estimate	9
		Weighting for non-response	1.25
3	Existing households planning to move in next 5 years or on unauthorised site	Currently on sites	
		3a. To another pitch/same site (no net impact)	0.0
		3b. To another site in district (no net impact)	0.0
		3c. From site to bricks and mortar (-)	0.0
		3d. To site/bricks and mortar outside district	0.0
		Currently in Bricks and Mortar	
		3f. Planning to move to a site in LA (+)	0.0
		3g. Planning to move to another B&M property (no net impact)	0.0
		In-migrant households	
		3h. Allowance for in-migration (+)	0.0
		3i. TOTAL Net impact (-3c-3d+3f+3h)	0.0
4	Emerging households (5 years)	4a. Currently on site and planning to live on current site	7.8
		4b. Current on site and planning to live on another site in the district	0.0
		4c. Currently on site and planning to live outside the district	0.0
		4d. Currently in B&M planning to move to a site in LA (+)	0.0
		4e. Currently in B&M and moving to B&M (no net impact)	0.0
		4f. Currently on Site and moving to B&M (no net impact)	0.0
		4g. TOTAL (4a+4b+4d)	7.8
5	Total Need	1d+3i+4g	32.8
SUPPLY			
6	Current supply of authorised pitches	6a Current supply of occupied permanently authorised pitches occupied by Gypsies and Travellers	18
		6b. Current occupied doubled up pitches which are sufficient accommodate multiple households	6
		6b. Current authorised pitches which are vacant	5
		6c. Total current authorised supply (6a+6b)	29
RECONCILING NEED AND SUPPLY			
7	Total need for pitches	5 years (from 5)	33
8	Total supply of authorised pitches	5 years (from 6c)	29
5-YEAR AUTHORISED PITCH NEED 2022/23 TO 2026/27			4

Existing households planning to move in the next five years (Table row 3)

- 7.43 This was derived from information from the 2023 household survey for respondents currently on pitches. Of existing households currently on sites, the household survey indicates that none plan to move in the next 5 years. This is the sum of rows 3a to 3d.
- 7.44 For households currently in bricks and mortar, arc⁴ GTAA's usually estimate that 5.3% of households living in bricks and mortar would prefer to live on a site which would equate to less than 1 households. However, as we have attempted extensive engagement with households living in bricks and mortar, none were willing to participate in the study and it can be reasonably assumed that there is therefore no emerging need for pitches from bricks and mortar households.
- 7.45 The needs model considers migration but need arising through future in-migration should be met through a criteria-based policy.
- 7.46 The factors presented in section 3 of the model result in an overall net requirement of 0.0 pitches (weighted) from existing households planning to move in the next 5 years.

Emerging households (Table row 4)

- 7.47 This is the number of households expected to emerge in the next 5 years based on 2023 household survey information. The total number is +7.8 (weighted). If young people aged 18 and over were living with family and have not specified that they want to form a new household, this is assumed to be through choice and the model does not assume they want to form a new household. The model however does factor in need from 13 to 17 year olds who are likely to emerge in the next 5 years but had not indicated this on the household survey.

Total need for pitches (Table row 5)

- 7.48 This is a total of current households on authorised pitches, households on pitches planning to move in the next five years and demand from emerging households currently living on pitches. This indicates a total need for 33 pitches (25 existing households on pitches plus a net need for 0.0 (weighted) pitches from existing households planning to move and a need for 7.8 (weighted) pitches from emerging households).

Supply

Current supply of authorised pitches (Table row 6)

- 7.49 This is a summary of the total number of authorised pitches occupied by Gypsies and Travellers and the number of vacant authorised pitches.
- 7.50 There is a total supply of 23 authorised pitches. Of these 18 are occupied and 5 are vacant. It is also important to note there is a net difference of households to pitches due to some multiple households living on individual pitches (in effect 6 households are doubling up on pitches but the pitches are sufficiently large to accommodate multiple households). The supply therefore takes into account the number of households who can be accommodated on pitches on The Conifers but the approach taken is very specific to that site.

Reconciling supply and need

- 7.51 There is a total need over the next five years (2022/23 to 2026/27) for 33 pitches in Fylde Borough (row 7) compared with a supply of 18 authorised pitches which can accommodate 24 households plus 5 vacant pitches. The result is a need for 4 pitches over the period 2022/23 to 2026/27.

Longer-term pitch requirement modelling

- 7.52 Longer-term pitch need modelling has been carried out using known household structure information from the household survey of households living on pitches. On the basis of the age of children in households, it is possible to determine the extent of 'likely emergence', which assumes that a child is likely to form a new household at the age of 18.
- 7.53 The year when a child reaches 18 has been calculated and it is possible to assess how many newly forming households may emerge over the period 2027/28 to 2039/40. A reasonable assumption is that half of these children will form new households, bearing in mind culturally women tend to move away on marriage and men tend to stay in close proximity to their families on marriage. The model therefore assumes that 50% of children will form households when they reach 18 and that these households remain in Fylde Borough. This approach has been tested at inquiry and the assumption has been corroborated by several Travelling interviewees. Analysis would suggest a total need for 11 additional pitches over the period 2027/28-2039/40 (Table 7.6).

Table 7.6 Future pitch requirements based on the assumption that 50% of children will require a pitch in Fylde Borough

Time period	No. children	No. pitches (rounded)
2027/28 to 2031/32 (5 years) (Years 6 to 10)	13	7
2032/33 to 2036/37 (5 years) (Years 11 to 15)	6	3
2037/38 to 2039/40 (3 years) (Years 16 to 18)	1	1
Total (2027/28 to 2039/40) (13 years)	20	11

Overall plan period pitch need

- 7.54 Table 7.7 summarises the overall need for pitches across Fylde Borough over the plan period 2022/23 to 2039/40. Need has been assessed over a short-term 2022/23 to 2026/27 and longer-term 2027/28 to 2039/40 period. The overall need is 15 (4 in the short-term and 11 in the longer-term). The main driver of need in the first five years is new household formation.

Table 7.7 Gypsy and Traveller pitch need Fylde Borough 2022/23 to 2039/40

Period	Need
5yr Authorised Pitch Need (2022/23 to 2026/27) (A)	4
Longer-term need	
Over period 2027/28 to 2031/32 (Years 6 to 10) (B)	7
Over period 2032/33 to 2036/37 (Years 11 to 15) (C)	3
Over period 2037/38 to 2039/40 (Years 16 to 18) (D)	1
Longer-term need TOTAL to 2039/40 (13 years) E=(B+C+D)	11
NET NEED 2022/23 to 2039/40 (A+E) (18 years)	15
Annual net Need	0.8

Potential capacity for Gypsy and Traveller pitches on existing sites

Turnover on sites

- 7.55 Turnover relates to the number of pitches that are expected to become available for occupancy. Analysis only includes expected turnover on public sites as this is referenced in (former) MHCLG guidance and more accurate data on changes in pitch occupancy is likely to be available. Although there is likely to be turnover on private sites, the ability of households to move onto private sites may be more restrictive (for instance the site may be restricted to a particular family) and less likely to be recorded.
- 7.56 As there are no council sites in Fylde Borough, turnover is not considered in modelling.

Regularisation of existing sites and new sites

- 7.57 There is one unauthorised site with 1 pitch. This is a recently occupied site and the council has not yet received an application for a site. Any application should be considered against criteria-based policy.

Potential for additional pitches on existing sites

- 7.58 Survey respondents suggested potential for additional pitches on existing sites. Through discussions with residents on private sites, the GTAA identified a total of between 17 and 21 potential pitches. It is recommended that the council reflect upon the potential for additional pitches on sites as a way of helping to meet need and whether this can be achieved in planning terms by factoring in wider planning considerations. It is likely that these pitches will help meet need arising from newly-forming households already living on particular sites. These could be brought forward to help meet immediate or longer-term need.

Table 7.8 Potential additional pitches on existing sites to meet Gypsy and Traveller need: Fylde Borough

Site Code	Site Location	Number of additional pitches
FPriv1	The Conifers, Bambers Lane, Westby, FY4 5LH	4
FPriv3	Hill Top Farm, Back Lane, Weeton, PR4 3HS	4
FPriv6	Gavins Croft, Parrox Lane, Newton, PR4 3RJ	2 to 4
FPriv7	Fair Bank, Fleetwood Road, Greenhalgh, PR4 3HJ	4 to 5
FPriv8	Angel Lane, Hardhorn, FY6 8DN	3 to 4
	TOTAL	17 to 21

Vacant pitches on private and public sites

7.59 There were 5 vacancies on private sites across Fylde Borough. These pitches have been included in the 5-year need model.

Impact of turnover, regularisation and additional pitches on overall need.

7.60 The overall plan period need is 15 pitches (4 short-term and 11 longer-term).

7.61 There is a potential supply of additional pitches through:

- Regularisation (potential for 1 unauthorised pitch)
- Potential expansion/intensification (17 to 21 pitches)

7.62 This potential supply could provide between 18 and 22 additional pitches which would meet the plan period need. Further work is recommended to review the potential for additional pitch development on existing sites.

7.63 Notwithstanding evidence in this GTAA on need, additional need may arise over the plan period, for instance households moving into the borough. It is therefore recommended that the Local Plan references the need in the GTAA as a minimum need which is likely to be met but sets out criteria-based policies to inform future planning applications for private sites should they arise.

7.64 It is implicit in this study that the needs arising from the private family sites will be met either through the use of vacant pitches on those sites or through new site provision. No turnover is assumed on private sites but over the plan period this may help provide pitches for occupation by Gypsies and Travellers in housing need.

Tenure preferences

7.65 A review of the current tenure profile of households expecting to form either in the short or longer-term would indicate that all new households would prefer to live on private sites.

Wyre Borough pitch need analysis: Description of factors in the 5-year need model

- 7.66 Table 7.9 provides a summary of the 5-year pitch need calculation for Wyre Borough. Each component in the model is now discussed to ensure that the process is transparent and any assumptions clearly stated.

Need

Current households living on pitches (Table row 1)

- 7.67 These figures are derived from council data and site observation data. In summary there is one household living on a pitch.

Current households in bricks and mortar accommodation (Table row 2)

- 7.68 An estimate of households in bricks and mortar is provisional based on the 2021 Census. The 2011 Census indicated 96 people and 27 households identifying as Gypsy/Traveller of whom 63% lived in bricks and mortar. The comparable 2021 population count is lower at 52 and there were 35 household reference people identifying as Gypsy and Traveller. Of the 2021 Census Gypsy and Traveller population, 21.4% live in caravans and 78.6% live in bricks and mortar accommodation. This implies that around 28 households live in bricks and mortar accommodation.

Weighting of data

- 7.69 Survey data have been weighted to take account of non-response households. For Gypsy and Traveller households the weighting is $1 \text{ (total households)} \div 1 \text{ (total responses)} = 1.00$.

Table 7.9 Summary of demand and supply factors: Wyre Borough Gypsies and Travellers – 2022/23 to 2026/27

PITCH NEED			Wyre Borough
1	Households living on pitches	1a. On LA Site	0
		1b. On Private Site – Authorised	0
		1c. Unauthorised	1
		1d. Total (1a to 1c)	1
2	Estimate of households living in bricks and mortar accommodation	2021 Census estimate	28
		<i>Weighting for non-response</i>	1.00
3	Existing households planning to move in next 5 years or on unauthorised site	Currently on sites	
		3a. To another pitch/same site (no net impact)	0.0
		3b. To another site in district (no net impact)	0.0
		3c. From site to bricks and mortar (-)	0.0
		3d. To site/bricks and mortar outside district	0.0
		Currently in Bricks and Mortar	
		3f. Planning to move to a site in LA (+)	0.0
		3g. Planning to move to another B&M property (no net impact)	0.0
		In-migrant households	
		3h. Allowance for in-migration (+)	0.0
		3i. TOTAL Net impact (-3c-3d+3f+3h)	0.0
4	Emerging households (5 years)	4a. Currently on site and planning to live on current site	0.0
		4b. Current on site and planning to live on another site in the district	0.0
		4c. Currently on site and planning to live outside the district	0.0
		4d. Currently in B&M planning to move to a site in LA (+)	0.0
		4e. Currently in B&M and moving to B&M (no net impact)	0.0
		4f. Currently on Site and moving to B&M (no net impact)	0.0
		4g. TOTAL (4a+4b+4d)	0.0
		5	Total Need
SUPPLY			
6	Current supply of authorised pitches	6a Current supply of occupied permanently authorised pitches occupied by Gypsies and Travellers	0
		6b. Current authorised pitches which are vacant	2
		6c. Total current authorised supply (6a+6b)	2
RECONCILING NEED AND SUPPLY			
7	Total need for pitches	5 years (from 5)	1
8	Total supply of authorised pitches	5 years (from 6c)	2
5-YEAR AUTHORISED PITCH NEED 2022/23 TO 2026/27			-1

Existing households planning to move in the next five years (Table row 3)

- 7.70 This was derived from information from the 2023 household survey for respondents currently on pitches. Of existing households currently on sites, the household survey indicates that none plan to move in the next 5 years. This is the sum of rows 3a to 3d.
- 7.71 For households currently in bricks and mortar, arc⁴ GTAA's usually estimate that 5.3% of households living in bricks and mortar would prefer to live on a site which would equate to zero households. Furthermore, as we have attempted extensive engagement with households living in bricks and mortar, none were willing to participate in the study and it can be reasonably assumed that there is therefore no emerging need for pitches from bricks and mortar households.
- 7.72 The needs model considers migration but need arising through future in-migration should be met through a criteria-based policy.
- 7.73 The factors presented in section 3 of the model result in an overall net requirement of 0.0 pitches (weighted) from existing households planning to move in the next 5 years. However, household surveys indicate there are five households that currently live outside Wyre but have a connection with Wyre and their needs would be considered through a criteria-based policy.

Emerging households (Table row 4)

- 7.74 This is the number of households expected to emerge in the next 5 years based on 2023 household survey information. The total number is zero. If young people aged 18 and over were living with family and have not specified that they want to form a new household, this is assumed to be through choice and the model does not assume they want to form a new household. The model however does factor in need from 13 to 17 year olds who are likely to emerge in the next 5 years but had not indicated this on the household survey.

Total need for pitches (Table row 5)

- 7.75 This is a total of current households on authorised pitches, households on pitches planning to move in the next five years and demand from emerging households currently living on pitches. This indicates a total need for 1 pitch (1 existing household on an unauthorised pitch plus a net need for 0.0 (weighted) pitches from existing households planning to move including in-migration and a need for zero pitches from emerging households).

Supply

Current supply of authorised pitches (Table row 6)

- 7.76 This is a summary of the total number of authorised pitches occupied by Gypsies and Travellers and the number of vacant authorised pitches.
- 7.77 There is a total supply of two vacant authorised pitches which could help meet identified authorised need.

Reconciling supply and need

- 7.78 There is a total need over the next five years (2022/23 to 2026/27) for 1 pitch in Wyre Borough (row 7) compared with a supply of 2 authorised pitches. The result is an overall need of -1 pitches.

Longer-term pitch requirement modelling

- 7.79 Longer-term pitch need modelling has been carried out using known household structure information from the household survey of households living on pitches. On the basis of the age of children in households, it is possible to determine the extent of 'likely emergence', which assumes that a child is likely to form a new household at the age of 18.
- 7.80 The year when a child reaches 18 has been calculated and it is possible to assess how many newly forming households may emerge over the period 2027/28 to 2039/40. A reasonable assumption is that half of these children will form new households, bearing in mind culturally women tend to move away on marriage and men tend to stay in close proximity to their families on marriage. The model therefore assumes that 50% of children will form households when they reach 18 and that these households remain in Wyre Borough. This approach has been tested at inquiry and the assumption has been corroborated by several Travelling interviewees. Analysis would suggest a total need for zero additional pitches over the period 2027/28-2039/40 (Table 7.10) based on households currently living in Wyre.

Table 7.10 Future pitch requirements based on the assumption that 50% of children will require a pitch in Wyre Borough

Time period	No. children	No. pitches (rounded)
2027/28 to 2031/32 (5 years) (Years 6 to 10)	0	0
2032/33 to 2036/37 (5 years) (Years 11 to 15)	0	0
2037/38 to 2039/40 (3 years) (Years 16 to 18)	0	0
Total (2027/28 to 2039/40) (13 years)	0	0

Overall plan period pitch need

- 7.81 Table 7.11 summarises the overall need for pitches across Wyre Borough over the plan period 2022/23 to 2039/40.

Table 7.11 Gypsy and Traveller pitch need Wyre Borough 2022/23 to 2039/40

Period	Need
5yr Authorised Pitch Need (2022/23 to 2026/27) (A)	-1
Longer-term need	
Over period 2027/28 to 2031/32 (Years 6 to 10) (B)	0
Over period 2032/33 to 2036/37 (Years 11 to 15) (C)	0
Over period 2037/38 to 2039/40 (Years 16 to 18) (D)	0
Longer-term need TOTAL to 2039/40 (13 years) E=(B+C+D)	0
NET NEED 2022/23 to 2039/40 (A+E) (18 years)	-1
Annual net Need	0

Potential capacity for Gypsy and Traveller pitches on existing sites

Turnover on sites

- 7.82 Turnover relates to the number of pitches that are expected to become available for occupancy. Analysis only includes expected turnover on public sites as this is referenced in (former) MHCLG guidance and more accurate data on changes in pitch occupancy is likely to be available. Although there is likely to be turnover on private sites, the ability of households to move onto private sites may be more restrictive (for instance the site may be restricted to a particular family) and less likely to be recorded.
- 7.83 As there are no council sites in Wyre Borough, turnover is not considered in modelling.

Regularisation of existing sites

- 7.84 There is one existing site with one unauthorised pitch that is occupied in Wyre.

Potential for additional pitches on existing sites

- 7.85 No additional pitches on existing sites were identified for Wyre.

Vacant pitches on private and public sites

- 7.86 There two vacant pitches on a private site across Wyre.

Impact of turnover, regularisation and additional pitches on overall need.

- 7.87 The overall plan period need is -1 pitches.
- 7.88 Notwithstanding evidence in this GTAA on need, additional need may arise over the plan period, for instance households moving into the borough. It is

therefore recommended that the Local Plan references the need in the GTAA as a minimum need which is likely to be met but sets out criteria-based policies to inform future planning applications for private sites should they arise.

- 7.89 It is implicit in this study that the needs arising from the private family sites will be met either through the use of vacant pitches on those sites or through new site provision. No turnover is assumed on private sites but over the plan period this may help provide pitches for occupation by Gypsies and Travellers in housing need.

Tenure preferences

- 7.90 A review of the current tenure profile of households expecting to form either in the short or longer-term would indicate that all new households would prefer to live on private sites.

Blueberry Park and Blueberry Stables

- 7.91 There are two areas of land in Wyre which have an association with Gypsies and Travellers: Blueberry Park and Blueberry Stables, Lancaster Road, Preesall, FY6 0HN. Both areas are currently unoccupied, with planning permission refused on Blueberry Stables and occupants subsequently moving off the site.
- 7.92 During the GTAA survey, an interview was successfully carried out with a household that currently lives in Fylde. The need for this household is currently met in Fylde. However, this household has an aspiration to live on Blueberry Park in Wyre. This household also provided further information about two other households aspiring to live on Blueberry Park. These two further households do not currently reside on the Fylde Coast.
- 7.93 Information was also obtained for two households who had an association with Blueberry Stables through one interview, although neither household was currently living in Wyre. However, a recent planning application has been received for Blueberry Stables. Any application should be considered against criteria-based policy.

Transit requirements across the Fylde Coast

- 7.94 There are a number of ways to deliver temporary places where Travellers can stop whilst passing through a local authority area. These include transit sites, stop over areas and negotiated stopping.
- 7.95 Households were asked about transit need. Across the Fylde Coast, 77.5% of respondents (base=40) said there was no need to provide places where people can stop whilst travelling through their area and 22.5% said there was a need.
- 22.5% said there was a need for transit pitches.
 - 22.5% said there was a need for stop over places
- 7.96 When asked how many transit pitches were required, the majority didn't know and those stating a number mentioned 2 to 3 pitches.

- 7.97 When asked how many stop-over places were required, the majority didn't know and those stating a number mentioned 2 to 3 pitches or 'as many as can be provided'.

Response to transit need

- 7.98 When considering transit need, the council needs to be mindful of new legislation through the Police, Crime, Courts and Sentencing Act (Part 4). This will make using land for stopping without permission a criminal offence rather than a civil offence. The Act gives police increased powers to act and introduces significant penalties (fines up to £2,500, impounding vehicles and prison sentences).
- 7.99 Although only a minority of household survey respondents indicated there was a need for transit provision, it is recommended councils consider options to accommodate households travelling through the Fylde Coast.
- 7.100 There are several ways to deliver temporary places where Travellers can stop whilst passing through a local authority area and in general, councils are moving towards providing temporary stop over areas and negotiated stopping to help meet short-term transit need rather than develop transit sites.
- 7.101 A temporary stop over area is land which can be used on a temporary basis if unauthorised encampments occur or are likely to occur. They can be fields, areas of hardstanding or a mixture of both. Temporary facilities can be provided when the temporary stop over is in use, for instance portable toilets and rubbish collection.
- 7.102 Negotiated stopping involves councils making an agreement with Gypsies and Travellers on unauthorised encampments. The terms of the agreement can vary but usually include the provision of portaloos, waste disposal, water; the length of the agreement can vary but tends to be around 28 days; and users agree to comply with rules for behaviour and use of the site (see <https://www.negotiatedstopping.co.uk> for more information).
- 7.103 Based on emerging good practice nationally, it is recommended that the councils consider developing a flexible approach to unauthorised encampment activity using negotiated stopping arrangements. It is recommended the councils should consider identifying areas of land that can be used for smaller encampments (up to 5 caravans), encampments of between 5 and up to 10 caravans and for larger encampments at least 10 caravans to accommodate Travellers passing through the Fylde Coast.

8. Travelling Showperson residential plot need

Introduction

- 8.1 As reported in Chapter 4 Table 4.3c and 4.3d, there are two Travelling Showperson yards in Blackpool (with a total of 6 plots), one yard in Fylde (with 2 plots) and one yard in Wyre (with 19 plots), with 3 transit plots in Wyre. Travelling Showpeople working in the Fylde Coast and Blackpool in particular have a critical role to play in sustaining the vibrant tourism economy of the area along with supporting fairs and shows across the North West.

Blackpool Borough

- 8.2 Table 8.1 provides a summary of the 5-year plot need calculation for Blackpool Borough. Each component in the model is now discussed to ensure that the process is transparent and any assumptions clearly stated.

Need

Current households living on plots (Table row 1a to 1d)

- 8.3 These figures are derived from council data and site observation data. In summary there are a total of 4 households living on private plots on two yards (See Table 8.1).

Existing households planning to move in the next five years (Table row 3)

- 8.4 This was derived from information from the 2023 household survey for respondents currently on plots. Of existing households currently on yards, the household survey indicates that none plan to move in the next 5 years. This is the sum of rows 3a to 3e. The needs model considers migration but need arising through future in-migration should be met through a criteria-based policy. The factors presented in section 3 of the model result in an overall net requirement of 0.0 pitches (weighted) from existing households planning to move in the next 5 years.

Table 8.1 Summary of demand and supply factors: Travelling Showpeople – Blackpool Borough 2022/23 to 2026/27

TRAVELLING SHOWPERSON NEED			Blackpool Borough
1	Households living on plots	1a. On council yards	0
		1b. On private yard - Authorised	4
		1c. On private yard – Temporary Authorised	0
		1d. On unauthorised yard	0
		1e. Total (1a to 1d)	4
2	Estimate of households living in bricks and mortar accommodation	2021 Census estimate	N/A
		<i>Weighting for non-response</i>	N/A
3	Existing households planning to move in next 5 years or on unauthorised yard	Currently on yards	
		3a. To another plot/same yard (no net impact)	0
		3b. To another yard in district	0
		3c. From yard to bricks and mortar (-)	0
		3d. To yard/bricks and mortar outside district	0
		3e. From roadside to bricks and mortar (no net impact)	0
		Currently in Bricks and Mortar	
		3f. Planning to move to a yard in LA (+)	0
		3g. Planning to move to another B&M property (no net impact)	0
		In-migrant households	
		3h. Allowance for in-migration (+)	0
	3i. TOTAL Net impact (-3c-3d+3f+3h)	0	
4	Emerging households (5 years)	4a. Currently on yard and planning to live on current yard	0
		4b. Current on yard and planning to live on another yard in the district	0
		4c. Currently on yard and planning to live outside the district	0
		4d. Currently in B&M planning to move to a yard in LA (+)	0
		4e. Currently in B&M and moving to B&M (no net impact)	0
		4f. Currently on Yard and moving to B&M (no net impact)	0
		4g. TOTAL (4a+4b+4d)	0
5	Total Need	1e+3i+4g	4
SUPPLY			
6	Current supply of authorised plots	6a Current supply of occupied permanently authorised plots	5
		6b. Current authorised plots which are vacant	1
		6c. Total current authorised supply (6a+6b)	6
RECONCILING NEED AND SUPPLY			
7	Total need for plots	5 years (based on row 5 total need but adjusted to reflect that 2 households live across 3 plots)	5
8	Total supply of authorised plots	5 years (from 6c)	6
5-YEAR AUTHORISED PLOT NEED 2022/23 TO 2026/27			-1

Emerging households (Table row 4)

- 8.5 This is the number of households expected to emerge in the next 5 years based on 2023 household survey information. The total number is 0.0. If young people aged 18 and over were living with family and have not specified that they want to form a new household, this is assumed to be through choice and the model does not assume they want to form a new household. The model however does factor in need from 13 to 17 year olds who are likely to emerge in the next 5 years but had not indicated this on the household survey.

Total need for plots (Table row 5)

- 8.6 This is a total of current households on authorised plots, households on plots planning to move in the next five years and demand from emerging households currently living on plots. This indicates a total need for 4 plots (4 existing households on plots).

Supply

Current supply of authorised plots (Table row 6)

- 8.7 This is a summary of the total number of authorised plots occupied by Travelling Showpeople and the number of vacant authorised plots.
- 8.8 There is a total supply of 6 authorised plots. Of these 5 are occupied and 1 is vacant. Two households occupy three plots.

Reconciling supply and need

- 8.9 There are a total of 4 households living across 5 plots and in addition, there is one vacant plot.
- 8.10 There is a need over the next five years (2022/23 to 2026/27) for five plots in Blackpool Borough (row 7) compared with a supply of 5 occupied authorised plots and 1 vacant plot. The result is a surplus of 1 plot.
- 8.11 It should be noted that during an interview with one of the showperson households it was highlighted that the size of one of the existing showperson's yards in Blackpool was considered to be insufficient to accommodate the storage of equipment. Any such requirement would be considered against the Council's criteria based policy for Travelling Showperson sites.

Longer-term plot requirement modelling

- 8.12 Longer-term plot need modelling has been carried out using known household structure information from the household survey of households living on plots. On the basis of the age of children in households, it is possible to determine the extent of 'likely emergence', which assumes that a child is likely to form a new household at the age of 18.
- 8.13 The year when a child reaches 18 has been calculated and it is possible to assess how many newly forming households may emerge over the period 2027/28 to 2039/40. The model reasonably assumes that 50% of children will form households when they reach 18 and that these households remain in Blackpool Borough. This approach has been tested at inquiry and the

assumption has been corroborated by several Traveller interviewees. Analysis would suggest a total need for 1 additional plot over the period 2027/28-2039/40 (Table 8.2).

Table 8.2 Future plot requirements based on the assumption that 50% of children will require a plot: Blackpool Borough

Time period	No. children	No. plots(rounded)
2027/28 to 2031/32 (5 years) (Years 6 to 10)	0	0
2032/33 to 2036/37 (5 years) (Years 11 to 15)	0	0
2037/38 to 2039/40 (3 years) (Years 16 to 18)	1	1
Total (2027/28 to 2039/40) (13 years)	1	1

Overall plan period plot need

- 8.14 Table 8.3 summarises the overall need for plots across Blackpool Borough over the plan period 2022/23 to 2039/40 and highlights that there is no need for additional showperson plots.
- 8.15 Note there is no scope to expand existing yards in Blackpool and concerns have been raised by local Travelling Showperson families about the size of one of the yards.
- 8.16 Notwithstanding evidence in this GTAA on need, additional need may arise over the plan period, for instance households moving into the borough. It is therefore recommended that the Local Plan references the need in the GTAA as a minimum need but sets out criteria-based policies to inform future planning applications for private sites should they arise.

Table 8.3 Travelling Showperson plot need Blackpool Borough 2022/23 to 2039/40

Period	Need
5yr Authorised Plot Need (2022/23 to 2026/27) (A)	-1
Longer-term need	
Over period 2027/28 to 2031/32 (Years 6 to 10) (B)	0
Over period 2032/33 to 2036/37 (Years 11 to 15) (C)	0
Over period 2037/38 to 2039/40 (Years 16 to 18) (D)	1
Longer-term need TOTAL to 2039/40 (13 years) E=(B+C+D)	0
NET NEED 2022/23 to 2039/40 (A+E) (18 years)	0
Annual net Need	0.06

Fylde Borough

- 8.17 Table 8.4 provides a summary of the 5-year plot need calculation for Fylde Borough. Each component in the model is now discussed to ensure that the process is transparent and any assumptions clearly stated.

Need

Current households living on plots (Table Row 1a to 1d)

- 8.18 These figures are derived from council data and site observation data. In summary there is a total of 1 household living on private plots on one yard (See Table 8.4).

Existing households planning to move in the next five years (Table row 3)

- 8.19 This was derived from information from the 2023 household survey for respondents currently on plots. Of existing households currently on yards, the household survey indicates that none plan to move in the next 5 years. This is the sum of rows 3a to 3e. The needs model considers migration but need arising through future in-migration should be met through a criteria-based policy. The factors presented in section 3 of the model result in an overall net requirement of 0.0 pitches (weighted) from existing households planning to move in the next 5 years.

Table 8.4 Summary of demand and supply factors: Travelling Showpeople – Fylde Borough 2022/23 to 2026/27

TRAVELLING SHOWPERSON NEED			Blackpool Borough
1	Households living on plots	1a. On council yards	0
		1b. On private yard - Authorised	1
		1c. On private yard – Temporary Authorised	0
		1d. On unauthorised yard	0
		1e. Total (1a to 1d)	1
2	Estimate of households living in bricks and mortar accommodation	2021 Census estimate	N/A
		<i>Weighting for non-response</i>	<i>N/A</i>
3	Existing households planning to move in next 5 years or on unauthorised yard	Currently on yards	
		3a. To another plot/same yard (no net impact)	0
		3b. To another yard in district	0
		3c. From yard to bricks and mortar (-)	0
		3d. To yard/bricks and mortar outside district	0
		3e. From roadside to bricks and mortar (no net impact)	0
		Currently in Bricks and Mortar	
		3f. Planning to move to a yard in LA (+)	0
		3g. Planning to move to another B&M property (no net impact)	0
		In-migrant households	
		3h. Allowance for in-migration (+)	0
	3i. TOTAL Net impact (-3c-3d+3f+3h)	0	
4	Emerging households (5 years)	4a. Currently on yard and planning to live on current yard	0
		4b. Current on yard and planning to live on another yard in the district	0
		4c. Currently on yard and planning to live outside the district	0
		4d. Currently in B&M planning to move to a yard in LA (+)	0
		4e. Currently in B&M and moving to B&M (no net impact)	0
		4f. Currently on Yard and moving to B&M (no net impact)	0
		4g. TOTAL (4a+4b+4d)	0
5	Total Need	1e+3i+4g	1
SUPPLY			
6	Current supply of authorised plots	6a Current supply of occupied permanently authorised plots	1
		6b. Current authorised plots which are vacant	0
		6c. Total current authorised supply (6a+6b)	1
RECONCILING NEED AND SUPPLY			
7	Total need for plots	5 years (from 5)	1
8	Total supply of authorised plots	5 years (from 6c)	1
5-YEAR AUTHORISED PLOT NEED 2022/23 TO 2026/27			0

Emerging households (Table row 4)

- 8.20 This is the number of households expected to emerge in the next 5 years based on 2023 household survey information. The total number is 0.0. If young people aged 18 and over were living with family and have not specified that they want to form a new household, this is assumed to be through choice and the model does not assume they want to form a new household. The model however does factor in need from 13 to 17 year olds who are likely to emerge in the next 5 years but had not indicated this on the household survey.

Total need for plots (Table row 5)

- 8.21 This is a total of current households on authorised plots, households on plots planning to move in the next five years and demand from emerging households currently living on plots. This indicates a total need for 1 plot (1 existing household on plot).

Supply

Current supply of authorised plots (Table row 6)

- 8.22 This is a summary of the total number of authorised plots occupied by Travelling Showpeople and the number of vacant authorised plots.
- 8.23 There is a total supply of 1 authorised plot which is occupied by one household.

Reconciling supply and need

- 8.24 There is a total need over the next five years (2022/23 to 2026/27) for 1 plot in Fylde Borough (row 7) compared with a supply of 1 occupied authorised plot. The result is an overall need for zero plots.

Longer-term plot requirement modelling

- 8.25 Longer-term plot need modelling has been carried out using known household structure information from the household survey of households living on plots. On the basis of the age of children in households, it is possible to determine the extent of 'likely emergence', which assumes that a child is likely to form a new household at the age of 18.
- 8.26 The year when a child reaches 18 has been calculated and it is possible to assess how many newly forming households may emerge over the period 2027/28 to 2039/40. The model therefore reasonably assumes that 50% of children will form households when they reach 18 and that these households remain in Fylde Borough. Analysis would suggest a total need for zero additional plots over the period 2027/28-2039/40 (Table 8.5).

Table 8.5 Future plot requirements based on the assumption that 50% of children will require a plot: Fylde Borough

Time period	No. children	No. plots(rounded)
2027/28 to 2031/32 (5 years) (Years 6 to 10)	0	0
2032/33 to 2036/37 (5 years) (Years 11 to 15)	0	0
2037/38 to 2039/40 (3 years) (Years 16 to 18)	0	0
Total (2027/28 to 2039/40) (13 years)	0	0

Overall plan period plot need

- 8.27 Table 8.6 summarises the overall need for plots across Fylde Borough over the plan period 2022/23 to 2039/40.
- 8.28 Notwithstanding evidence in this GTAA on need, additional need may arise over the plan period, for instance households moving into the borough. It is therefore recommended that the Local Plan references the need in the GTAA as a minimum need but sets out criteria-based policies to inform future planning applications for private sites should they arise.

Table 8.6 Travelling Showperson plot need Fylde Borough 2022/23 to 2039/40

Period	Need
5yr Authorised Plot Need (2022/23 to 2026/27) (A)	0
Longer-term need	
Over period 2027/28 to 2031/32 (Years 6 to 10) (B)	0
Over period 2032/33 to 2036/37 (Years 11 to 15) (C)	0
Over period 2037/38 to 2039/40 (Years 16 to 18) (D)	0
Longer-term need TOTAL to 2039/40 (13 years) E=(B+C+D)	0
NET NEED 2022/23 to 2039/40 (A+E) (18 years)	0
Annual net Need	0

Wyre Borough

- 8.29 There is one Travelling Showperson's yard in Wyre comprising 19 residential plots of which 18 are permanently occupied and one is kept available for emergency accommodation. There are also 3 transit plots available for short-term occupancy whilst households are travelling. This yard has provided residential accommodation for Travelling Showperson families from within Wyre but also provided plots for households from outside the Fylde Coast. It is important to note that the Fylde Coast GTAA is specifically considering the needs arising from households currently living within the study area.

- 8.30 Table 8.7 provides a summary of the 5-year plot need calculation for Wyre Borough. Each component in the model is now discussed to ensure that the process is transparent and any assumptions clearly stated.

Need

Current households living on plots (Table row 1a to 1d)

- 8.31 These figures are derived from council data and site observation data. In summary there are a total of 18 households living on a private plots (See Table 7.4), with one plot reserved for emergency accommodation. No weighting of data for non-response has been necessary.

Existing households planning to move in the next five years (Table row 3)

- 8.32 This was derived from information from an interview with the yard owner. Of existing households currently on yards, the household survey indicates that none plan to move in the next 5 years. This is the sum of rows 3a to 3h. Regarding in-migration, around 7 households moved into the borough onto new plots that had been developed. However, to plan for a repeat of the release of plots for people moving into the borough would not reflect local need. Therefore, no in-migration need is shown in the modelling and any future need arising from households moving into Wyre would be considered through criteria-based policy.

Emerging households (Table row 4)

- 8.33 This was derived from information from an interview with the yard owner who provided summary household information, including the ages of children. The number of households expected to form in the next 5 years is 9.

Total need for plots (Table row 5)

- 8.34 This is a total of current households on authorised plots, households on plots planning to move in the next five years and demand from emerging households currently living on plots. This indicates a total need for 27 plots (18 existing households living on plots plus 9 emerging households) but the need could be met within the Fylde Coast generally.

Supply

Current supply of authorised plots (Table row 6)

- 8.35 This is a summary of the total number of authorised plots occupied by Travelling Showpeople and the number of vacant authorised plots.
- 8.36 There is a total supply of 18 authorised plots and no vacant plots

Reconciling supply and need

- 8.37 There is a total need over the next five years (2022/23 to 2026/27) for 27 plots in Wyre Borough (row 7) compared with a supply of 18 occupied authorised plots. The result is an overall need for 9 plots, but the need could be met within the Fylde Coast generally.

Table 8.7 Summary of demand and supply factors: Travelling Showpeople – Wyre Borough 2022/23 to 2026/27

TRAVELLING SHOWPERSON NEED			Wyre Borough
1	Households living on plots	1a. On council yards	0
		1b. On private yard - Authorised	18
		1c. On private yard – Temporary Authorised	0
		1d. On unauthorised yard	0
		1e. Total (1a to 1d)	18
2	Estimate of households living in bricks and mortar accommodation	2021 Census estimate	N/A
		<i>Weighting for non-response</i>	N/A
3	Existing households planning to move in next 5 years or on unauthorised yard	Currently on yards	
		3a. To another plot/same yard (no net impact)	0
		3b. To another yard in district	0
		3c. From yard to bricks and mortar (-)	0
		3d. To yard/bricks and mortar outside district	0
		3e. From roadside to bricks and mortar (no net impact)	0
		Currently in Bricks and Mortar	
		3f. Planning to move to a yard in LA (+)	0
		3g. Planning to move to another B&M property (no net impact)	0
		In-migrant households	
		3h. Allowance for in-migration (+)	0
	3i. TOTAL Net impact (-3c-3d+3f+3h)	0	
4	Emerging households (5 years)	4a. Currently on yard and planning to live on current yard	9
		4b. Current on yard and planning to live on another yard in the district	0
		4c. Currently on yard and planning to live outside the district	0
		4d. Currently in B&M planning to move to a yard in LA (+)	0
		4e. Currently in B&M and moving to B&M (no net impact)	0
		4f. Currently on Yard and moving to B&M (no net impact)	0
		4g. TOTAL (4a+4b+4d)	9
5	Total Need	1e+3i+4g	27
SUPPLY			
6	Current supply of authorised plots *	6a Current supply of occupied permanently authorised plots	18
		6b. Current authorised plots which are vacant	0
		6c. Total current authorised supply (6a+6b)	18
RECONCILING NEED AND SUPPLY			
7	Total need for plots	5 years (from 5)	27
8	Total supply of authorised plots	5 years (from 6c)	18
5-YEAR AUTHORISED PLOT NEED 2022/23 TO 2026/27			9

*Note one plot is kept permanently vacant for emergency use so the total number of plots is 19

Longer-term plot requirement modelling

- 8.38 Longer-term plot need modelling has been carried out using known household structure information from the household survey of households living on plots (Table 8.8). On the basis of the age of children in households, it is possible to determine the extent of 'likely emergence', which assumes that a child is likely to form a new household at the age of 18. It is assumed that half of people reaching 18 will need a plot and long-term need is for 4 plots, but the need could be met within the Fylde Coast generally.

Table 8.8 Future plot requirements based on the assumption that 50% of children will require a plot: Wyre Borough

Time period	No. children	No. plots(rounded)
2027/28 to 2031/32 (5 years)	3	2
2032/33 to 2036/37 (5 years)	3	1
2037/38 to 2039/40 (3 years)	1	1
Total (2027/28 to 2039/40) (13 years)	7	4

Overall plan period plot need

- 8.39 Table 8.9 summarises the overall need for plots across Wyre Borough over the plan period 2022/23 to 2039/40. The overall need is 13 plots (9 in the short-term and 4 in the longer-term). This need could be met within the Fylde Coast generally.
- 8.40 There would be potential to expand the current yard through further development of the site. This would help to meet some of the identified needs. The yard does have electricity and water supply. Travelling Showpeople are also willing to work with the councils to deliver more plots across the Fylde Coast to meet local need.

Table 8.9 Travelling Showperson plot need Wyre Borough 2022/23 to 2039/40

Period	Need
5yr Authorised Plot Need (2022/23 to 2026/27) (A)	9
Longer-term need	
Over period 2027/28 to 2031/32 (Years 6 to 10) (B)	2
Over period 2032/33 to 2036/37 (Years 11 to 15) (C)	1
Over period 2037/38 to 2039/40 (Years 16 to 18) (D)	1
Longer-term need TOTAL to 2039/40 (13 years) E=(B+C+D)	4
NET NEED 2022/23 to 2039/40 (A+E) (18 years)	13
Annual net Need	0.7

9. Conclusion and response

- 9.1 This concluding chapter provides a brief summary of key findings and recommendations.

Current accommodation

- 9.2 There are well-established Gypsy and Traveller communities living across the Fylde Coast. There are a total of 77 pitches across 21 sites and 4 Travelling Showperson's yards with 27 plots.

Future Gypsy and Traveller residential need

- 9.3 The GTAA has set out the overall need over the period 2022/23 to 2039/40 for each borough which is summarised in Table 9.1. This is broken down into a short-term 5-year need 2022/23 to 2026/27 and a long-term need 2027/28 to 2039/40.
- 9.4 The GTAA has also identified potential pitch supply through regularisation and expansion/intensification of existing sites as summarised in Table 9.2. Whether regularisation and/or provision of additional pitches is the appropriate solution to meeting needs, rather than through the provision of further sites, will be a matter for the councils to determine, having regard to all planning considerations. It will be for the councils to assess where within the Fylde Coast the appropriate locations will be for needs to be met.
- 9.5 For **Blackpool**, the overall need is for 19 pitches (2 short-term and 17 longer-term).
- 9.6 If turnover and all potential pitch provision was realised, the overall supply of pitches would be 15 to 17. This has the potential to largely meet need arising over the plan period but it is likely an additional site may be required to meet longer-term need, particularly as much of this need is arising from the Chapel Road Council site.
- 9.7 For **Fylde Borough**, the overall need is for 15 pitches (4 in the short-term and 11 in the longer-term)
- 9.8 There is a potential supply of between 18 and 22 pitches through regularisation and expansion/intensification of existing sites. If regularisation and all potential pitch provision was realised, this would meet the plan period need.
- 9.9 For **Wyre Borough**, the overall need is -1. It should be noted there are two areas of land in Wyre which have an association with Gypsies and Travellers: Blueberry Park and Blueberry Stables, Lancaster Road, Preesall. These areas are currently unoccupied, with planning permission refused on Blueberry Stables and occupants subsequently moving off the site. A recent planning application has been received for Blueberry Stables. Any applications, including this recent application, would be considered against criteria-based policy.

Table 9.1 Summary of Gypsy and Traveller residential pitch need to 2040 by time period

Time period	Overall need			
	Blackpool	Fylde	Wyre	Fylde Coast
2022/23 to 2026/27	2	4	-1	5
2027/28 to 2039/40	17	11	0	28
Total 2022/23 to 2039/40	19	15	-1	33

Table 9.2 Summary of potential supply of Gypsy and Traveller residential pitches

Method of delivery	Borough			
	Blackpool	Fylde	Wyre	Fylde Coast
Regularisation	0	1	1	2
Expansion / intensification	8 to 10	17 to 21	0	25 to 31
Turnover on council site (2 every 5 years or 7 over period 2022/23 to 2039/40)	7			7
TOTAL	15 to 17	18 to 22	1	34 to 40

Note: regularisation relates to:

FUnauth1 Kays Farm, Dagger Road, Treales, Roseacre and Wharles

WUnauth1 Land East of Bowses Hill Stud, Neds Lane, Stalmine

- 9.10 There is also potential supply through regularisation, intensification and turnover for up to 40 pitches; however, the suitability of these will be for the councils to assess.
- 9.11 Assuming all of these pitches became available, need would be met across the Fylde Coast.
- 9.12 Notwithstanding evidence in this GTAA on need, additional need may arise over the plan period, for instance from households moving into the Fylde Coast. It is therefore recommended that each council references the overall need in the GTAA as a minimum need, how this need can be met and also sets out criteria-based policies to inform future planning applications for public and private sites. The following suggestions, based on a range of policies from other local authorities could be taken into account when drafting the council's policies on new residential pitch provision:
- The site is in a sustainable location in terms of accessibility to services and facilities, including health and schools.
 - The site is suitable in terms of vehicular access to the highway, parking, turning, road safety and servicing arrangements and has access to essential services such as water supply, sewerage, drainage and waste disposal.
 - Appropriate screening and landscaping is included within the proposal to protect local amenity and the environment.

- The site is not affected by environmental hazards that may affect the residents' health or welfare or be located in an area of high risk of flooding, including functional floodplains.
- They promote peaceful and integrated co-existence between the site and the local community.
- They enable mixed business and residential accommodation (providing for the live-work lifestyle of Travellers).
- They avoid undue pressure on local infrastructure and services.
- The proposal is well related to the size and location of the site and respects the scale of the nearest settled community.
- Proposals make adequate provision for on-site facilities that meet best practice for modern Traveller site requirements, including play areas, storage, provision for recycling and waste management.

Transit site/stop over need

- 9.13 The councils should consider the options for transit provision, particularly in response to the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act. Given the level of unauthorised encampment activity, it is recommended the councils consider developing a negotiated stopping policy to support Travellers passing through the Fylde Coast area. It is recommended the councils should consider identifying areas of land that can be used for smaller encampments (up to 5 caravans), encampments of between 5 and up to 10 caravans and for larger encampments at least 10 caravans to accommodate Travellers passing through the Fylde Coast.

Future Travelling Showperson residential need

- 9.14 It is recommended that the three councils continue to work with the Travelling Showperson community living on the Fylde Coast. Additional need has been evidenced for Showpersons plots in Wyre (13 plots) but none in Blackpool or Fylde. The overall need across the Fylde Coast is therefore 13 plots over the period 2022/23 to 2039/40. However, one Travelling Showperson interviewed considered the size of their existing yard in Blackpool to be insufficient to accommodate the storage of equipment. Any such requirement would be considered against the Council's criteria based policy for Travelling Showperson sites.
- 9.15 Any future need arising from households wanting to move into the Fylde Coast should be considered using criteria-based policies.
- 9.16 The Showperson community is keen to work with the councils to bring forward new yards. There would be potential to expand the current yard in Wyre through further development of the site. This would help to meet some of the identified needs. However, it is likely that at least one new yard will be required across the Fylde Coast to meet need.

Future updating

- 9.17 The GTAA should be updated on a 5-yearly basis to ensure that the level of pitch and plot provision remains appropriate for the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople population across the Fylde Coast.

Appendix A: Gypsy and Traveller Fieldwork Questionnaire

	Date and Time	
	Site Reference	
	Address	
	General Data Protection Regulation (2018) and Data Protection	GDPR came into effect from 25th May 2018. This provides rights of people to control personal data held about them by organisations.
		This study is being done for Blackpool/Fylde/Wyre Councils to identify if there is a need for more residential pitches and transit provision in the area. A report will be prepared based on the findings of these surveys. The information you provide will not be used for any other purpose.
		The information you provide will not be used to identify you personally, will be kept strictly confidential
	Can you please say if you are happy to carry on with the questionnaire on this basis?	YES/ NO
1	Pitch/Property Type (and tenure if B&M)	
2	No. Statics/mobiles/ chalets or bricks and mortar	
3	No. tourers/caravans	
4	Description of pitch occupancy	
5	No. households	
6	No. concealed households	
7	No. doubled up households	
8	Does anyone else use this pitch as their home? If so, who	

9	Household characteristics			
		Gender	Age	Relationship to respondent
	Respondent			
	Person 2			
	Person 3			
	Person 4			
	Person 5			
	Person 6			
	Person 7			
	Person 8			

10	Ethnicity	
11	How many bedspaces are there on your pitch?	
12	Overcrowding of home	Y / N
13	Overcrowding of pitch	Y / N
14	Thinking back to when you were 15, were you living on a site, on the roadside or living in bricks and mortar housing?	S, R, B&M
15	Where were you living? Record district/settlement name	

Travelling questions	
	In 2015, the Government changed its definition of Gypsies and Travellers for planning purposes. To be recognised as a Gypsy Traveller you or someone in your household has to travel. I'm now going to ask a few questions about whether you or someone in your household travels

16	In the last year have you or someone in your household travelled?	Y / N
17	Previous to the last year, did you or someone in your household travel?	Y / N
18	Reason(s) for travelling	
19	Please describe when and where do you travel? (if relevant)	
20	Do you or a member of your household plan to travel next year?	Y / N
21	Do you think you or a member of your household will travel in the next two to five years?	Y / N
22	What reasons do you or your household have for not travelling now or in the future?	
22a	Is someone in your household currently travelling:	Y / N

	Where you plan to live in the future	
23	Are you planning to move to another place to live in the next 5 years?	Y / N
24	Why are you planning to move ?	
25	Where are you planning to move to? (Same Site, Private Site in District, Council Site in District, Outside District (if so where), Bricks and Mortar housing)	
26	What type of dwelling ? (caravan, trailer, chalet, house, flat, bungalow)	
26a	If pitch, single (one static) or double pitch (for two statics)	
If in B&M housing		
27	If you live in bricks and mortar housing, are you happy to live here or would you <u>prefer</u> to live on a pitch?	Happy Here / Prefer pitch
28	If you would prefer to live on a pitch is this because you have a 'cultural aversion' to living in bricks and mortar (this means if affects your mental health and makes you unhappy/ depressed)?	Y / N

Emerging households						
29	Emerging households: Are there any people in your household who want to move to their own pitch in the next 5 yrs?	Y / N				
		HH1	HH2	HH3	HH4	
30	Where are you planning to move to? (Same Site, Private Site in District, Council Site in District, Outside District (if so where), Bricks and Mortar housing)					
31	What type of dwelling ? (caravan, trailer, chalet, house, flat, bungalow)					
32	Have they travelled / plan to travel ?	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	
33	If living in bricks and mortar do you have a 'cultural aversion' to living in bricks and mortar? (this means if affects your mental health and makes you unhappy/ depressed)	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	

Additional residential pitches		
34	Scope to expand site (extend the boundary of the site)	Y / N
35	No. additional pitches	
36	Scope to intensify pitches (put more pitches on the existing site)	Y / N
37	No. additional pitches	

38	Are there any vacant pitches on the site which could be used by another family? If so how many pitches	
39	In general, is there a need for more authorised pitches (for people to live on all the time?) in this district?	Y / N
40	If so, now many are needed?	
41	Who should own them (Council, people from the Traveller Community, non-Travellers)	
42	Do you own any land or know of anywhere within the district which could be considered for development as a site?	
Transit and temporary stopover need		
43	Is there a need to provide places where people can stop whilst travelling through the district? This can include transit pitches or stopover places	Y / N
44	Is there a need for transit pitches (for people stopping over temporarily) in the district? A transit pitch is intended for short-term use and usually includes space for two caravans, parking space and access to electricity, a toilet, washing facilities	Y / N
45	If so, how many are needed?	
46	Who should manage them ? (Council, Traveller Community)	
47	Where should they be located?	
48	Is there a need for stopover places? A stopover place is land which can be used on a temporary basis and usually include access to portaloos, waste disposal and water	Y / N
49	If so, how many are needed?	
50	Who should manage them ? (Council, Traveller Community)	
51	Where should they be located?	
Residential history		
52	How many years have you lived here?	
Routing	If more than five years	Go to Q58
	If five years or less	Go to Q53
53	Where did you move from? (District)	
54	Were you living on a Private Site, Council Site, Roadside or Bricks and Mortar housing?	
55	When you moved here, was the pitch vacant, a brand new pitch or had the pitch been created by dividing up an existing pitch?	
56	What were the reasons for moving here?	
57	Did you already have a connection with the area ? (e.g. family or friends living here; or you used to live here?)	
Support needs		
58	Do you or a member of your household have any health-related needs? Could you please explain what they are?	

59	Is there any need for your home to be adapted in any way?	Please tick if needed in caravan/trailer/mobile	Please tick if needed in shed
	Better heating		
	More insulation		
	Adaptations to kitchen (e.g. accessible/drop-down units)		
	Adaptations to bathroom (e.g. level-access shower/wetroom)		
	Adaptations relating to sensory needs (e.g. to radiators, floors, sockets)		
	Internal hand/grab rails		
	External hand/grab rails		
	Level door handles		
	Wheelchair adaptations (including door widening and ramps)		
	Other adaptations (please say what is needed)		

60	Are you or someone in your household in need of any support because of health reason?	
	Pregnancy support	
	Post-natal support	
	Medical treatment from GP	
	Medical treatment from hospital	
	Occupational therapy	
	Counselling	
	Other support (please say what)	
61	IF RELEVANT: Do you or someone in your household need any support with the education of your child(ren)?	
	Help for children of primary school age	
	Help for children of secondary school age	
	Other support (please see what)	
62	IF RELEVANT: Do you or someone in your household require any support with job-related training?	Go through list of support
	Help with English, Maths and/or IT skills	
	Help applying for an apprenticeship	
	Help applying for a course at college/ university	
	Other support (please say what)	
63	Thinking about local facilities, I'm going to run through a list. Can you please say if you use them, if you have difficulties accessing them or if you don't need them.	Response: Use, Difficulty, Don't need. If difficult, prompt for reasons.
	Parks and open spaces	
	Libraries	
	Dentists	
	Doctors	
	Child care	
	Primary schools	

	Secondary schools	
	Shopping facilities	
	Council Offices	
	Sports and leisure facilities	
	Pharmacies	
	Access to public transport/bus stop	
	Access to main roads/motorways	
	Post office	
	Cash point/ATM	
	Churches/places of worship	
	Pubs/restaurants	
	Internet access in your home	
64	Thinking about the site where you live, are there improvements you'd like to see or are considering?	Interviewer use prompts and note response
	Fewer pitches	
	More pitches	
	Larger pitches	
	Better or more washing/laundry facilities	
	Better or more toilet facilities	
	Improvements to sheds	
	Making sites more accessible for people with disabilities	
	Better security/site safety (e.g. CCTV)	
	Better or more storage facilities/workshops	
	Better or more parking	
	Better access to roads/access to highway	
	Visitor space	
	Lorry parking	
	Communal buildings	
	Landscaping	
	Better fencing	
	Better refuse storage	
	Pest control	
65	Do you think there any necessary or critical improvements needed on your site?	Interviewer note response
66	Are you or anyone in your household currently on the council's waiting list for a home?	Yes / No
	If yes, where do you want to live and what type of accommodation are you wanting (bricks and mortar, chalet, tourer)	Interviewer note response

	Final questions	
67	Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about your housing or support needs?	
68	Do you know anyone in bricks and mortar housing looking to live on a pitch? If so, can you provide contact details	

Appendix B: Glossary of terms

Caravans: Mobile living vehicles used by Gypsies and Travellers; also referred to as trailers.

CJ&POA: Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994; includes powers for local authorities and police to act against unauthorised encampments.

CRE: Commission for Racial Equality.

DLUHC: Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. Formerly Department for Communities and Local Government; created in May 2006 and responsible for the remit on Gypsies and Travellers during the period the PPTS was written. It was renamed in 2018 as MHCLG (Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government) and in 2021 it was renamed again as DLUHC.

Gypsies and Travellers: Defined by DCLG *Planning policy for traveller sites* (August 2015) as “Persons of nomadic habit of life whatever their race or origin, including such persons who on grounds only of their own or their family’s or dependants’ educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily, but excluding members of an organised group of travelling showpeople or circus people travelling together as such”. The planning policy goes on to state that, “In determining whether persons are “gypsies and travellers” for the purposes of this planning policy, consideration should be given to the following issues amongst other relevant matters: a) whether they previously led a nomadic habit of life b) the reasons for ceasing their nomadic habit of life c) whether there is an intention of living a nomadic habit of life in the future, and if so, how soon and in what circumstances”.

Irish Traveller: Member of one of the main groups of Gypsies and Travellers in England. Irish Travellers have a distinct indigenous origin in Ireland and have been in England since the mid nineteenth century. They have been recognised as an ethnic group since August 2000 in England and Wales (O’Leary v Allied Domecq).

Mobile home: Legally a ‘caravan’ but not usually capable of being moved by towing.

Pitch: Area of land on a Gypsy/Traveller site occupied by one resident family; sometimes referred to as a plot, especially when referring to Travelling Showpeople. DCLG *Planning policy for traveller sites* (August 2015) states that “For the purposes of this planning policy, “pitch” means a pitch on a “gypsy and traveller” site and “plot” means a pitch on a “travelling showpeople” site (often called a “yard”). This terminology differentiates between residential pitches for “gypsies and travellers” and mixed-use plots for “travelling showpeople”, which may / will need to incorporate space or to be split to allow for the storage of equipment”.

Plot: see pitch

PPTS: Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (DCLG, 2012 and 2015 editions)

Roadside: Term used here to indicate families on unauthorised encampments, whether literally on the roadside or on other locations such as fields, car parks or other open spaces.

Romany: Member of one of the main groups of Gypsies and Travellers in England. Romany Gypsies trace their ethnic origin back to migrations, probably from India, taking place at intervals since before 1500. Gypsies have been a recognised ethnic group for the purposes of British race relations legislation since 1988 (CRE V Dutton).

Sheds: On most residential Gypsy/Traveller sites 'shed' refers to a small basic building with plumbing amenities (bath/shower, WC, sink), which are provided at the rate of one per pitch/plot. Some contain a cooker and basic kitchen facilities.

Showpeople: Defined by DCLG *Planning policy for traveller sites* (August 2015) as “Members of a group organised for the purposes of holding fairs, circuses or shows (whether or not travelling together as such). This includes such persons who on the grounds of their own or their family’s or dependants’ more localised pattern of trading, educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily, but excludes Gypsies and Travellers as defined above”.

Site: An area of land laid out and used for Gypsy/Traveller caravans; often though not always comprising slabs and amenity blocks or ‘sheds’. An authorised site will have planning permission. An unauthorised development lacks planning permission.

Slab: An area of concrete or tarmac on sites allocated to a household for the parking of trailers (caravans)

Stopping places/stopover sites: A term used to denote an unauthorised temporary camping area tolerated by local authorities, used by Gypsies and Travellers for short-term encampments, and sometimes with the provision of temporary toilet facilities, water supplies and refuse collection services.

Tolerated site: An unauthorised encampment/site where a local authority has decided not to take enforcement action to seek its removal.

Trailers: Term used for mobile living vehicles used by Gypsies and Travellers; also referred to as caravans.

Transit site: A site intended for short-term use while in transit. The site is usually permanent and authorised, but there is a limit on the length of time residents can stay.

Unauthorised development: Establishment of Gypsy and Traveller sites without planning permission, usually on land owned by those establishing the site. Unauthorised development may involve ground works for roadways and hard standings. People parking caravans on their own land without planning permission are not Unauthorised Encampments in that they cannot trespass on their own land – they are therefore Unauthorised Developments and enforcement is always dealt with by local planning authorities enforcing planning legislation.

Unauthorised encampment: Land where Gypsies or Travellers reside in vehicles or tents without permission. Unauthorised encampments can occur in a variety of locations (roadside, car parks, parks, fields, etc.) and constitute trespass. The 1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act made it a criminal offence to camp on land without the owner’s consent. Unauthorised encampments fall into two main categories: those on land owned by local authorities and those on privately owned land. It is up to the landowner to take enforcement action in conjunction with the police.

Wagons: This is the preferred term for the vehicles used for accommodation by Showpeople.

Yards: Showpeople travel in connection with their work and therefore live, almost universally, in wagons. During the winter months these are parked up in what was traditionally known as ‘winter quarters. These ‘yards’ are now often occupied all year around by some family members.