



Wyre Council

Site Allocations Background Paper Annex B – Fylde Coast GTAA Technical Note

September 2017

National planning policy (Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) 2012 and 2015) requires local authorities in preparing their local plans to consider the needs of gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople and in doing so to set appropriate targets for pitches (Gypsies and Travellers) and plots (showpeople), and to make appropriate allocations accordingly. PPTS makes it clear that the terminology differentiates between residential pitches for “gypsies and travellers” and mixed-use plots for “travelling showpeople”, which may need to incorporate space or to be split to allow for the storage of equipment.

In accordance with the need to objectively assess the needs of Gypsies, Travellers and travelling showpeople in 2013 the three Fylde Coast Authorities of Wyre, Fylde and Blackpool commissioned Opinion Research Services (ORS) to undertake a Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) to inform the respective local plans.

The aim of the commission was to provide an up-to-date understanding of the likely permanent and transit accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers and travelling showpeople within the sub-region as a whole, and for each of the Partner Authorities.

The study methodology was based on a process involving an analysis of current supply and current/future need as follows:

- Current supply of pitches and plots
- Current households living on unauthorised developments
- Current concealed households
- Current households in bricks and mortar who wish to move to sites (and visa-versa)
- Households living on sites with temporary planning permission
- New household formation.

The assessment of supply and current need was made on the basis of information provided by each of the three local authorities plus extensive on-site interviews carried out by the consultants. In addition, Lancashire County Council (LCC) provided a Gypsy and Traveller Community Development Worker who spent an intensive period identifying (from LCCs own records) and directly engaging with Gypsy and Traveller bricks and mortar households.

This methodology resulted in the following needs being identified:

Table AB/1

Local authority	Gypsy and Traveller Pitches	Travelling Showperson Plots	All
Wyre	17	12	29
Blackpool	38	2	40
Fylde	26	0	26
TOTAL	81	14	95

The study also identified a need for transit accommodation but considered that this was best dealt with at a Lancashire-wide level.

At the time of the study, Wyre had no formal gypsy or traveller provision. For the 2014 study the need for gypsy and traveller accommodation in Wyre was partly based on a count of six of eight households formerly living at an unauthorised site as in need (as a result of contact with their planning agent). Although these households had left the site prior to the study being undertaken, the study gave consideration as to whether or not the residents of the unauthorised site still wished to reside in the borough.

The total need in Wyre as established in the 2014/15 study breaks down as follows:

AB/2a – Need – GTAA 2014: Gypsies/Travellers

Gypsies/travellers	Pitches
Current need - bricks and mortar	6
Current need - unauthorised households	6
Future need (new household formation)	5
Total need 2014	17

AB/2b – Need - GTAA 2014: Showpeople

Showpeople	Plots
Current need - temporary Planning permission	10
Future need (new household formation)	2
Total need 2014	12

In September 2015 the government revised its 2012 advice to local planning authorities regarding planning for the needs of Gypsies and Travellers - Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS). The new guidance makes a fundamental change to the definition of Gypsy/Traveller such that those who have permanently ceased to travel no longer fall within the planning definition. This change in guidance was considered to be so fundamental as to require an update of the 2014 GTAA, using the revised definition as its basis, to recalculate the level of Gypsy/Traveller and travelling showpeople accommodation need.

The Updated assessment was published in October 2016. It follows a similar methodology to the 2014 assessment i.e. it is based on a series of face to face (with telephone interviews where necessary) interviews with Gypsy, Traveller and showperson households - on sites and in bricks and mortar accommodation - across the three local authority areas. However the Update places a greater emphasis on identifying whether or not each household interviewed can evidence a travelling lifestyle.

As a result of the change in definition, the results of the Update demonstrate a significant reduction in the need for pitches and plots as many of those interviewed had permanently ceased to travel and as such fall outside of the new definition.

AB/3 – GTAA 2016 – Change in Need

	Gypsies and Travellers pitches	Travelling Showpeople plots
Blackpool	5	5
Fylde	-2*	0
Wyre	0	19
TOTAL	3	24

*The Update found that for Fylde the supply of gypsy and traveller pitches exceeded the need.

As can be seen the need for gypsy and traveller pitches identified in the 2016 study is nil. This is as a result of the six households previously accounted for against an unoccupied and unauthorised site having moved away from the area or having found accommodation elsewhere and the fact that all of the bricks and mortar households interviewed having permanently ceased to travel. For showpeople the need breaks down as follows:

AB/4 – GTAA Showpeople Need (Wyre)

Showpeople (Wyre)	Plots
Current need – unauthorised households	17
Future need (new household formation)	2
Total need 2016	19
Permanently ceased to travel	2

This need is based on the occupants of a single unauthorised site (previously a site with temporary planning permission for use as a showperson's site, lapsed at the time of the 2016 Update study). It is noted that based on the information given at the time two households were identified as having permanently ceased to travel. Since publication, however, based on information from an occupant of the site it has been accepted that one of these households has ceased to travel temporarily and had done so at the time of the survey work. ORS and the council have agreed that this updated information should be used as the basis for the local plan. There are no implications for future need arising from this amendment. Therefore the need for plots is as follows:

AB/5 – GTAA Showpeople Need (Wyre) as Amended

Showpeople	Plots
Current need – unauthorised households	18
Future need (new household formation)	2
Total need 2016, revised May 2017	20

Based on interviews, the study also recognised a need for transit accommodation in the locality of the A6.