

# Herefordshire Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showperson Accommodation Assessment

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Herefordshire Council

Executive Summary  
February 2015

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## Executive Summary

In July 2014, arc<sup>4</sup> were commissioned by Herefordshire Council to undertake a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment to identify the housing needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople from across Herefordshire. The objective of the Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Assessment is to inform the emerging Local Plan policies and allocations.

The research provides information about the current and future accommodation needs and demands of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople; as well as providing information about their additional support needs

The methodology for this study has comprised:

- 139 Interviews with Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople;
- Desktop analysis of existing documents, data and pitch information; and
- A Key Stakeholder on-line questionnaire for professionals who have direct contact with local Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showperson communities.

### Current conditions

Across Herefordshire there are a total of 34 authorised Gypsy and Traveller sites (six Council and 28 private) which have a total of 114 pitches, four private tolerated sites (21 pitches) and three private unauthorised sites (7 pitches). Across the study area there three permanent Travelling Showperson yards that have a total of ten pitches.

77% of all respondents did not identify any repairs or improvements needed to their home, this included 79% of Gypsies and Travellers and 50% of Travelling Showpeople. 19% of respondents needed more space on their pitch.

Overcrowding and lack of space were not identified as significant problems, only 2% of Gypsies and Travellers identified their home as being overcrowded. None of the Travelling Showpeople interviewed felt that their home was overcrowded.

### Gypsy and Traveller Pitch Requirements

Since the obligation to provide Gypsy and Traveller sites was abolished in 1994, a gap in the provision of permanent sites has emerged nationally. This study has provided robust estimates of the size of the population of these communities, and establishes their current and future accommodation requirements.

Using the DCLG-approved model for calculating pitch requirements, the research has demonstrated that across Herefordshire there is a shortfall of 50 Gypsy and Traveller pitches (excluding turnover) and 6 pitches (including turnover) over the five year period 2014/15 to 2018/19 (Table 9.1).

DCLG guidance advocates smaller permanent sites of between six and 12 pitches. There is a need to take a long-term view of the site management as it is more intensive and demanding than most conventional housing management, and it would be sensible to look at this issue in greater depth. Different management models may

be appropriate for different sites, with mainstream approaches to recruitment and selection of managers needing to reflect cultural sensitivities.

For all communities, the method of analysis is such that it is possible to periodically update the assessment of accommodation need through the careful recording of key data. For Gypsy and Traveller Communities, the number of extant authorised pitches and a summary of the number of households on sites needs to be regularly updated from the baseline information provided in this assessment.

A need for up to three transit pitches was also identified across Herefordshire for the five year period 2014/15 to 2018/19.

The study also identified a need for up to six Travelling Showperson plots.

## Potential pitch requirements from households in bricks and mortar accommodation

The 2011 census reports that there are 100 Gypsy and Traveller households living in bricks and mortar accommodation across Herefordshire.

Studies carried out by arc<sup>4</sup> elsewhere would suggest that the number of existing and emerging households living in bricks and mortar accommodation who would prefer to live on a pitch equates to around 14.4% of households living in bricks and mortar accommodation (with 6.7% of existing households preferring a pitch, with preference from emerging households equating to 7.8% of households living in bricks and mortar accommodation). This is based on the results of surveys of 180 households living in bricks and mortar accommodation across 39 local authority areas. Applying this proportion to households living in bricks and mortar accommodation in Herefordshire would suggest an additional 14 pitches may be required for these households over the five years 2014/15 to 2018/19.

## Travelling Showperson Plot Requirements

There are currently an estimated ten Travelling Showperson plots in Herefordshire. The study identified a shortfall of up to four plots in Herefordshire (2014/15 to 2018/19) and up to seven plots over the period 2014/15 to 2028/29.

## Travelling Practices and Requirements

The current understanding of travelling patterns and the associated requirements of the Gypsy and Traveller was explored in the studies. The communities continue to travel for work, to reflect their cultural heritage and visiting family and friends.

52% of respondents identified a need for new transit provision in the area.

Overall, on the basis of one caravan per pitch, there is an estimated need for three transit/stop-over pitches across the study area over the next five years (2014/15 to 2018/19).

## Adaptations

Respondents were asked whether any adaptations were required in their homes. Only 1% of respondents (comprising 1% of Gypsies and Travellers) stated that they needed adaptations to their home (although the adaptation was not specifically stated). No Travelling Showpeople identified a need for adaptations.

## Summary of pitch and plot requirements

Table ES1 Herefordshire Summary	
	Total
2014 Baseline number of Gypsy and Traveller authorised and private tolerated pitches	135
Identified five year shortfall of Gypsy and Traveller pitches 2014/15 to 2018/19 (including turnover)	6
Identified five year shortfall of Gypsy and Traveller pitches 2019/20 to 2023/24	10
Identified five year shortfall of Gypsy and Traveller pitches 2024/25 to 2028/29	13
Total 15 year additional requirement for Gypsy and Traveller pitches 2014/15 to 2028/29	29
Total Gypsy and Traveller Pitch requirement over Local Plan period to 2030/31 (17 years)	33
2014 Baseline number of Travelling Showperson Plots	10
Identified five year shortfall of Travelling Showperson plots 2014/15 to 2018/19	4
Identified five year shortfall of Travelling Showperson plots 2019/20 to 2023/24	1
Identified five year shortfall of Travelling Showperson plots 2024/25 to 2028/29	2
Total 15 year additional requirement for Travelling Showperson plots 2014/15 to 2028/29	7
Total Travelling Showperson plot requirement over Local Plan period to 2030/31 (17 years)	8
Identified need for Gypsy and Traveller transit / stop over pitches	3

The study evidences an overall requirement for the 15 year Plan Period for a minimum of:

- 29 Gypsy and Traveller pitches
- 7 Travelling Showperson plots; and
- additionally the study recommends the provision of 3 transit pitches over the period 2014/14 to 2018/19.

The study evidences an overall requirement for the 17 year period 2014/15 to 2030/31 for a minimum of:

- 33 Gypsy and Traveller pitches
- 8 Travelling Showperson plots; and
- additionally the study recommends the provision of 3 transit pitches over the period 2014/14 to 2018/19.