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Next Update
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confirmed on the Due Out Soon
page)

Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count, July 2006

Introduction

This Statistical Release presents information on the number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans in Wales on both authorised and unauthorised sites as at 19th July 2006. It also provides information on the pitches available on Gypsy sites provided by local authorities. This information is based on a twice-yearly Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count which will be carried out by Local Authorities in Wales during the months of January and July each year.

Definitions of all terms used can be found in a glossary at the end of this release.

Background

The bi-annual counts of Gypsy and Traveller caravans and families were reintroduced in Wales in July 2006. The counts were reintroduced following recommendations from the Review of Service Provision for Gypsies and Travellers, carried out by the Assembly's Equality of Opportunity Committee in 2003, and more recently the Assembly's review of the Accommodation Needs of Gypsy/Travellers in Wales undertaken by Pat Niner of Birmingham University.

Commencement of section 225 of the Housing Act 2004 later in 2006 will also require local authorities to carry out an assessment of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers as part of the review of housing needs in their area.

Results

- The July 2006 Count showed that there were around 722 Gypsy and Traveller caravans in Wales.
- In total there were 57 sites across Wales, giving an average of 12.7 caravans per site.

Authorised sites:

- There were 581 caravans on authorised sites with planning permission, accounting for 81 per cent of all caravans.
- Of these, 402 (69 per cent) were on socially rented sites and 179 (31 per cent) on private sites.

Unauthorised sites:

- There were 27 caravans on unauthorised sites, on land owned by Gypsies, accounting for 4 per cent of all caravans.
- A further 114 caravans (16 per cent) were on unauthorised sites, on land not owned by Gypsies.

Gypsy Sites provided by Local Authorities:

- There were a total of 345 pitches on gypsy sites provided by local authorities in Wales on 19th July 2006.
- Of these, 330 (96 per cent) were residential pitches and 15 (4 per cent) were transit pitches.
- Local authority gypsy sites in Wales had capacity for 503 caravans, as at 19th July 2006.

Quality Information

1. The count is carried out on a specified date in January and July each year, giving a snapshot of the number and location of caravans/families on those days.
2. There is currently no distinction between a blank cell and a true zero.
3. There is currently no provision for distinguishing between accurate figures and estimates even if authorities, as requested, make this distinction.

The accuracy of the count figures can be affected by the following factors:

- Lack of commitment by the local authorities completing the returns
 - The relation to local policies
 - Poor counting practices
 - Geography – particularly in large rural areas
 - Traveller mistrust
4. The counts are voluntary. There are no rewards to local authorities completing the returns or penalties for those who fail to do so.
 5. Pitches on sites may accommodate up to 4 caravans.
 6. In July 2006 Monmouthshire and Wrexham local authorities did not participate in the count.
 7. Equivalent information for England is available via the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) website:
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1153575>
 8. The information collected as part of the count is not currently branded as National Statistics.

Table 1 Count of Gypsy and Traveller caravans on 19th July 2006

	Authorised sites (with planning permission)		Unauthorised sites (without planning permission)				All caravans
	Number of caravans		Number of caravans on sites on gypsies own land		Number of caravans on sites on land not owned by gypsies		
	Socially rented (a)	Private	Tolerated	Not tolerated	Tolerated	Not tolerated	
Isle of Anglesey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gwynedd	8	0	0	0	0	9	17
Conwy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Denbighshire	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
Flintshire	30	40	0	0	0	5	75
Wrexham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Powys	11	0	0	0	40	0	51
Ceredigion	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Pembrokeshire	74	2	0	1	0	6	83
Carmarthenshire	26	88	0	5	0	0	119
Swansea	16	0	0	9	0	10	35
Neath Port Talbot	72	0	0	0	0	11	83
Bridgend	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The Vale of Glamorgan	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Cardiff	120	0	0	0	0	9	129
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	5	0	5	0	0	0	10
Merthyr Tydfil	20	0	0	0	0	0	20
Caerphilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blaenau Gwent	20	0	0	0	0	0	20
Torfaen	0	49	7	0	0	0	56
Monmouthshire	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Newport	0	0	0	0	0	16	16
Wales	402	179	12	15	48	66	722
Average number of caravans for Wales per site	23.6	17.9	4.0	2.5	6.9	4.7	12.7

(a) Previously referred to as local authority sites. Includes sites owned by Registered Social Landlords

.. Not available (return not received from this authority)

Table 2 Gypsy sites provided by local authorities in Wales, 19th July 2006

	Number of pitches (a):			Caravan capacity
	Residential	Transit	Total	
Isle of Anglesey	0	0	0	0
Gwynedd	8	0	8	8
Conwy	0	0	0	0
Denbighshire	0	0	0	0
Flintshire	20	0	20	40
Wrexham	..	..	..	..
Powys	6	5	11	11
Ceredigion	0	0	0	0
Pembrokeshire	74	5	79	79
Carmarthenshire	30	0	30	30
Swansea	7	0	7	13
Neath Port Talbot	56	0	56	112
Bridgend	0	0	0	0
The Vale of Glamorgan	0	0	0	0
Cardiff	76	0	76	152
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	5	0	5	5
Merthyr Tydfil	24	0	24	24
Caerphilly	0	0	0	0
Blaenau Gwent	24	5	29	29
Torfaen	0	0	0	0
Monmouthshire	..	..	..	..
Newport	0	0	0	0
Wales	330	15	345	503

(a) Includes both occupied and vacant pitches

.. Not available (return not received from this authority)

Glossary

Caravans

These include:

- all mobile homes, caravans, trailers and other living vehicles on Gypsy/Traveller sites and encampments, whether or not they meet the strict legal definition of a caravan
- touring caravans on Gypsy/Traveller sites and encampments even if not lived in permanently
- tents, benders or yurts where these are the 'permanent' living accommodation of Gypsies or Travellers

It should be noted that up to 4 caravans could be located on a pitch.

Gypsy and Traveller

Traditional and Ethnic Gypsies and Travellers or members of non-traditional New Traveller groups who live in caravans or other moveable dwellings whether or not they meet the strict legal definition of a 'gypsy'.

Privately funded sites

Privately Funded Gypsy/Traveller sites with planning permission may include:

- sites with planning permission owned by Gypsies and Travellers for their own and/or their family's occupation and/or for commercial letting
- sites owned by any other private individual or body with planning permission for use as a Gypsy/Traveller site
- sites owned by a local authority but leased to, or managed by, a non-local authority body or individual under arrangements which do not give the local authority control of site management (critically of rent setting and lettings)
- 'With planning permission' may be interpreted to include sites without 'planning permission' as such, but with established use rights or other planning status which means that planning enforcement action cannot be taken

Socially Rented sites

Sites operated by local authorities or Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) to accommodate Gypsies and Travellers.

Unauthorised sites

On Gypsies own land:

Sites where Gypsies and Travellers are living on their own land in caravans/moveable dwellings without planning consent (or established use rights) to do so. Such sites may vary in size and in the extent to which the land has been 'developed' with roadways, distinct plots, hard-standings, amenity blocks etc.

A 'tolerated' site is one where the local authority has decided not to seek the removal of the encampment, and where the encampment has been, or is likely to be, allowed to remain for an indefinite period of months or years.

A 'not tolerated' site is one where:

- a planning enforcement notice has been served (including Temporary Stop Notices)
- the results of a planning enquiry are pending
- an injunction has been sought

- where the compliance period has been extended

On land not owned by Gypsies:

Caravans/moveable dwellings on sites without planning permission on land not owned by Gypsies/Travellers. The land may be in public or private ownership, including the highway.

A 'tolerated' encampment is one where the local authority and/or the land owner have decided not to seek the removal of the encampment, and where the encampment has been or is likely to be 'tolerated' for an indefinite period of months or years.

A 'not tolerated' encampment is one where:

- the local authority or police are using, or are preparing to use, their powers under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 to remove the encampment
- the landowner (including the local authority) has instigated, or is preparing to instigate, action either through the courts or under common law rights to regain possession of the land.