



# **Bridgend County Borough Council**

## **Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment**

### **Final Report**

May 2020



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# 1. Executive Summary

## Introduction and Methodology

- 1.1 The primary objective of this Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) is to provide a robust assessment of current and future need for Gypsy and Traveller<sup>1</sup> accommodation in Bridgend County Borough. It is a robust and credible evidence base which can be used to aid in the understanding of, and the provision of Traveller pitches and plots, and potential transit provision for the Replacement Bridgend Local Development Plan period to 2033. The outcomes of this GTAA will replace the outcomes of the previous GTAA for Bridgend County Borough that was published in 2016.
- 1.2 The GTAA has sought to understand the accommodation needs of the Gypsy and Traveller population in Bridgend County Borough through a combination of desk-based research, stakeholder engagement and engagement with members of the Travelling Community. In addition, a range of local stakeholders were invited to sit on a Project Steering Group. A total of 3 interviews were completed with Gypsies and Travellers living on authorised sites in Bridgend County Borough. In addition, an interview was completed with a Travelling Showperson household living at a site in Porthcawl; an interview was completed with a household living in bricks and mortar; and an interview was completed with a household living on a public site in another local authority with links to Bridgend. The GTAA has been comprehensively publicised and with several interviews having been completed, despite there being low numbers of Gypsy and Traveller households that reside in or resort to the County Borough compared to some other local authorities in Wales.
- 1.3 The baseline date for the study is **April 2020**.

## Key Demographic Findings

- 1.4 Ethnicity data was captured from all of the households that were interviewed on the Gypsy and Traveller sites and in bricks and mortar. All of the sites in Bridgend County Borough are occupied by Welsh Travellers, English Travellers and Romany Gypsies. In addition, a Travelling Showmen's family were identified living on land in Porthcawl.
- 1.5 In total the site interviews and other interviews covered 26 residents. This was made up of 13 adults and 13 children and teenagers aged under 18. This equates to 50% adults and 50% children and teenagers. Demographic information showed a mixed range of ages across the sites, though a higher proportion of the Traveller population who were interviewed were younger when compared to the overall population (the settled community and the Gypsy or Irish Traveller community) of Bridgend County Borough in the 2018 Mid-Year Estimate.

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<sup>1</sup> See Chapter 2 for the planning definition of a Traveller in Wales.

## Pitch Needs – Gypsies and Travellers

- 1.6 Based upon the evidence presented in this study the estimated pitch provision needed for Gypsies and Travellers in Bridgend County Borough for the first 5 years of the GTAA plan period is for **5 pitches**, and for the remainder of the GTAA plan period is for **a further 2 pitches**. This gives a total need for the whole GTAA plan period of **7 pitches**. These figures should be seen as the projected amount of provision which is necessary to meet the statutory obligations towards identifiable needs of the population arising in the area. These figures are made up of a combination of doubled-up households; movement from bricks and mortar; and new household formation.
- 1.7 A detailed breakdown which sets out the components that make up this additional need, together with any other issues that have been taken into consideration are included in **Chapter 6** of this report.

## Plot Needs - Travelling Showpeople

- 1.8 Whilst there are no formal Travelling Showpeople yards in Bridgend County Borough, contact was made with a Travelling Showmen's household living on land in Porthcawl. This household stated that their current accommodation was unsuitable for their needs and that they are seeking to privately purchase land to develop a new yard to operate from. As such the GTAA does not identify any need for plots for Travelling Showmen.

## Summary

Figure 1 – Summary of Identified Need in Bridgend (2020-2033)

Need	Years 0 to 5	Years 6 to 13	TOTAL
Permanent Pitches	5	2	<b>7</b>
Transit Pitches	0	0	<b>0</b>
Travelling Showpeople Plots	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>

## Transit Sites

- 1.9 It is recommended that there is **not a need for the Council to provide a permanent transit site** in Bridgend County Borough at this time. However, the Council should continue to monitor the number of unauthorised encampments and continue to follow the management-based approach set out in the Gypsy and Traveller Management Protocol through the use of short-term toleration to deal with short-term transient stops. If it becomes apparent that a growing number of unlawful encampments are settling within the County Borough for periods exceeding several days at a time, then this position will need to be re-visited.

## 2. Background and Policy Context

### The Study

- 2.1 Opinion Research Services (ORS) were appointed by Bridgend County Borough Council (the Council) in November 2019 to complete a robust and up-to-date needs assessment of accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers residing and resorting in Bridgend County Borough for the period to 2033.
- 2.2 The study provides an evidence base to enable the Council to comply with their requirements towards Gypsies and Travellers under Part 3 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. The Act requires Local Authorities to undertake a GTAA at least every 5 years, although Local Authorities have flexibility to undertake GTAAs more frequently if a material change in the level of need in the area has been identified. The Council published a GTAA in 2016 (covering the period up to 2031), although has now formally commenced a revision to the Local Development Plan (LDP). Welsh Government wrote to all Local Planning Authorities in September 2019 to confirm those undertaking an LDP Review must ensure the GTAA establishes an evidence base for Gypsy and Traveller needs across the entire plan period. Welsh Government also confirmed that this may necessitate undertaking of a new GTAA (and providing appropriate site allocations, where relevant) prior to the statutory Deposit consultation to ensure plans can be found sound through the examination process and are able to be adopted.
- 2.3 This GTAA therefore provides an assessment of need for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation in Bridgend County Borough to fulfil these requirements, updating the previous GTAA published in 2016. It is a robust and credible evidence base which can be used to aid in the understanding of, and the provision of Traveller pitches and plots, and also to support the Replacement Bridgend Local Development Plan (LDP) which covers the period 2018-2033.
- 2.4 We would note at the outset that the study covers the needs of Gypsies (including English, Scottish, Welsh and Romany Gypsies), Irish Travellers, New (Age) Travellers, and Travelling Showpeople, but for ease of reference we have referred to the study as a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA).
- 2.5 The baseline date for the study is **April 2020**.

### Legislation and Guidance

#### Welsh Government Circular 005/2018

- 2.6 Welsh Government Circular 005/2018 provides updated guidance on the planning aspects of identifying sustainable sites for Gypsies and Travellers. It also outlines how planning authorities and Gypsies and Travellers can work together to achieve this aim. It supersedes advice contained in Circular 30/2007 “Planning for gypsy and traveller caravan sites”, Circular 78/91 “Travelling Showpeople” and Circular 76/94 “Gypsy Sites Policy and Unauthorised Camping”.
- 2.7 The Circular include guidance on a range of issues relating to Gypsies and Travellers including:
  - » Definition of Travellers



- » Gypsies and Travellers – A Context
- » Duty to Provide Sites
- » Providing the Evidence Base
- » Regional Working
- » Development Plans
- » Major Development Projects
- » Designated Areas
- » Planning Applications
- » Enforcement
- » Appeals
- » Human Rights and Equality of Opportunity
- » Monitoring Planning Applications

## Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

<sup>2.8</sup> In relation to Gypsies and Travellers, Welsh Government Circular 005/2018 sets out that:

*7. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 sets a framework for local authorities across Wales to ensure the ‘sustainable development principle’ (meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs) is met. Section 4 of the Act puts in place a number of well-being goals which authorities are to seek to achieve in order to meet this principle. These goals include achieving ‘a Wales of cohesive communities’, containing attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities, and ‘a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language’, containing a society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language.*

*8. Housing is a fundamental issue that affects the lives of people across Wales, including our Gypsy and Traveller communities. The Welsh Government seeks to ensure a wide choice of accommodation is available to meet the needs of all members of the community. It is reflective of the Government’s commitment to ensure equality of opportunity for all sections of the community and in this instance, Gypsies and Travellers should have equal access to culturally appropriate accommodation as all other members of the community.*

## Housing (Wales) Act 2014

<sup>2.9</sup> Part 3 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 (the Act) sets out that a *local housing authority must, in each review period, carry out an assessment of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers residing in or resorting to its area.*

<sup>2.10</sup> Section 102 of the Act requires that local authorities must prepare a report which they must submit to Welsh Ministers for approval that:

- » details how the assessment was carried out;

- » contains a summary of:
  - the consultation it carried out in connection with the assessment, and
  - the responses (if any) it received to that consultation;
- » details the accommodation needs identified by the assessment.

2.11 Once approved the local housing authority must publish the assessment.

2.12 If need is identified in the GTAA report, Section 103 of the Act requires that a local authority must exercise its powers in Section 56 of the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013 so far as may be necessary to meet those needs.

2.13 Section 106 of the Act sets out that local authorities should have regard to any guidance given by Welsh Ministers. Guidance on Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments was published by Welsh Government in May 2015 and this Guidance still remains in place in 2020.

2.14 The GTAA Guidance covers the following issues:

- » Why a specific GTAA is required?
- » What should be produced?
- » Who needs to be consulted?
- » What data sources need to be reviewed?
- » Understanding the culture of Gypsy and Traveller communities.
- » How to identify and communicate with Gypsies and Travellers?
- » How to design, manage and undertake a GTAA?
- » Support with partnership working and working regionally.
- » Exploring specialist surveys, techniques and questions to be used.
- » How accommodation 'need' is assessed?
- » Submitting reports to Welsh Ministers.
- » How to make provision for identified need?

2.15 Section 108 of the Act sets out that:

- » **Accommodation needs** - includes, but is not limited to, needs with respect to the provision of sites on which mobile homes may be stationed;
- » **Gypsies and Travellers** – means persons of a nomadic habit of life, whatever their race or origin, including persons who, on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependant's educational or health needs or old age, have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, and members of an organised group of travelling show people or circus people (whether or not travelling together as such), and all other persons with a cultural tradition of nomadism or of living in a mobile home;
- » **Mobile home** - has the meaning given by section 60 of the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013.

## Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013

- <sup>2.16</sup> The GTAA Guidance sets out the requirement that local authorities have to meet a legal duty to exercise their functions to provide mobile home pitches to meet any identified needs. These are set out in Section 60 of the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013.
- <sup>2.17</sup> In this Act “mobile home” means:
- » *Any structure designed or adapted for human habitation which is capable of being moved from one place to another (whether by being towed, or by being transported on a motor vehicle or trailer) and any motor vehicle designed or adapted for human habitation, but does not include any railway rolling stock which is for the time being on rails forming part of a railway system, or any tent.*
  - » *A structure designed or adapted for human habitation which is composed of not more than 2 sections separately constructed and designed to be assembled on a site by means of bolts, clamps or other devices, and is, when assembled, physically capable of being moved by road from one place to another (whether by being towed, or by being transported on a motor vehicle or trailer).*

## Welsh Government Designing and Managing Gypsy and Traveller Sites Guidance

- <sup>2.18</sup> As well as publishing guidance on undertaking GTAAs in May 2015 the Welsh Government also published additional guidance on designing and managing Gypsy and Traveller sites in order to assist local authorities in meeting need for Gypsies and Travellers. These two documents are intended as a guide to assist Local Authorities in providing appropriate services at reasonable cost to the public purse for Gypsies and Travellers living on residential sites in Wales. They contain practical guidance to assist local authorities to ensure sites are fit-for-purpose, and how best to manage public Traveller sites. The guidance is not statutory. However, it is anticipated by Welsh Government that the guidance will help local authorities and others in the development, improvement and management of Gypsy and Traveller sites, and will form part of the consideration of the Welsh Government in assessing applications for Sites Capital Grant funding in relation to Gypsy and Traveller sites.

## Local Plan Policies

### Local Development Plan (2006-2021)

- <sup>2.19</sup> The existing Local Development Plan (LDP) is the Bridgend Local Development Plan (2006-2021) and it was adopted by the Council in September 2013. The Plan sets out the land-use planning policies of the County Borough which are used in the determination of planning applications. These policies include land-use allocations for different types of development (i.e. housing, employment, retailing, education, open space etc.) as well as criteria for assessing individual proposals. Potentially the Plan has a direct effect on the lives of every resident of the County Borough as well as major implications for landowners. The LDP, will guide development in the County Borough up to 2021. A new Replacement Bridgend Local Development Plan (2018-2033) is currently being prepared.

- 2.20 The LDP has a specific policy COM6 relating to Gypsy and Traveller Sites. It also recognises that Bridgend County Borough is not an area in which any sizeable numbers of gypsies and travellers have resided, or resort to.

#### **Policy COM6 - Gypsy and Traveller Sites**

Sites and/or pitches to accommodate gypsies and travellers residing in or resorting to the County Borough will be permitted where they satisfy the following criteria:

1. There is an identified need for a site and/or pitch;
2. In sequential order of preference it has been demonstrated that there are firstly no suitable sites or pitches available within existing settlement boundaries; or secondly that a site or pitch cannot be located within the curtilage of an existing development within the countryside;
3. Are well related to community services and facilities;
4. Capable of being served by utilities including waste disposal and recovery;
5. Can accommodate residential and home-based business uses without detriment to amenity and character of the area;
6. Capable of being screened and suitably landscaped to a standard compatible with either its urban or rural surroundings; and
7. Provide an appropriate layout, in terms of pitches, amenity buildings, hard standings and open spaces.

**6.1.28** Bridgend County Borough is not an area in which any sizeable numbers of gypsies and travellers have resided, or resort to. There is currently one privately owned Gypsy and Traveller site (with planning permission) comprising two pitches just north of Pencoed. There are no 'permanent' unauthorised developments or long-term encampments in the County Borough.

**6.1.29** Local authorities are required to assess the accommodation needs of Gypsy families (Housing Act 2004 S.225 & 226). Planning Policy Wales (2012) states that it is important for LDPs to have policies for the provision of sites. It indicates that where there is an assessment of unmet need for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation, sufficient sites should be allocated in the LDP to meet these needs.

**6.1.29** As a supplement to the Bridgend County Borough Local Housing Market Assessment (2009) a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment was commissioned. Its purpose was to assess the need for permanent residential and transit pitches for Bridgend's Gypsy and Traveller population. The report concluded that there was no evidence to suggest a need for a residential site; however, it did identify a need for 6 transit pitches within Bridgend County to 2021. The report recommended that the Council consider if the provision of a transit site would be suitable or whether a management solution would be a more effective and preferred option. The Council is developing a management solution by means of a structured and tolerant 'peripatetic' service coordinated by the Local Authority in partnership with the Police and other agencies.

**6.1.31** In tandem with the management solution the accommodation requirements of Gypsies and Travellers will be closely monitored and Policy COM6 will provide a suitable framework for the assessment of permanent and / or transit sites if a future need is identified.

**6.1.32** Policy COM6 provides the scope for gypsies and travellers who do not choose to be accommodated in settled communities to have the opportunity to be accommodated on sites or pitches designed to house temporary and/or mobile accommodation only. Such sites are not opportunities for permanent residential buildings, which would be contrary to other Policies in the Plan relating to the protection of the countryside. In demonstrating the suitability of a site and in applying the sequential test at criterion 2 above, a proposal will need to demonstrate to the Council that sequentially preferable sites are not economically viable.

<sup>2.21</sup> The Bridgend County Borough Protocol for the Management of Unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller Encampments was published in June 2012. The aim of this Protocol is to address the need for an effective, inter agency approach to the management of unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller encampments in Bridgend County Borough. The purpose of the Protocol is to consider the human rights and the ongoing welfare of Gypsies and Travellers in Bridgend County Borough balanced against the need to protect land and property from trespass. The scope of the Protocol extends to how Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) works with South Wales Police where unauthorised encampment situations arise, recognising that other Public bodies such as the Local Health Board and the Environment Agency may also need to be involved, dependant on local circumstances.

## Replacement Bridgend Local Development Plan (2018-2033)

<sup>2.22</sup> The Council is statutorily required, under Section 69 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, to undertake a full review of the adopted Local Development Plan (LDP) at intervals not longer than every 4 years from the date of adoption. The Replacement LDP is now being prepared and will express, in land-use terms, the wellbeing objectives and priorities of the Bridgend Public Services Board's Well-being Plan.

<sup>2.23</sup> The Council is required to assess the accommodation needs of Gypsy and Traveller families and include policies for provision of sites in the Replacement LDP. The findings of this GTAA will be a key consideration in the plan making, monitoring and review process for the Council's Replacement LDP; forming a key part of the evidence base that will be subject to public scrutiny through the plan preparation process and public examination.

<sup>2.24</sup> The Replacement LDP will identify suitable locations for permanent and/or transit sites that this GTAA deems necessary to meet the needs of Gypsies and Travellers. It will also include a criteria-based policy that will provide a clear and fair rationale for the determining of Gypsy and Traveller site planning applications in accordance with Welsh Government Circular 005/2018. The circular is clear that criteria-based policies must be fair, reasonable, realistic and effective in delivering sites and must not rule out or place undue constraints on the development of Gypsy and Traveller sites (paragraph 49).

<sup>2.25</sup> In addition, the sequential approach to site selection set out within the Circular must be reflected within policies; providing equal weighting to sites that may come forward 'within or adjacent' to settlement boundaries. Criteria will also be included to assess proposals for Gypsy and Traveller sites in the

countryside if there is a lack of suitable sustainable locations within or adjacent to existing settlement boundaries.

## Definition of Key Terms

<sup>2.26</sup> The 2015 GTAA Guidance contains common definitions that have been used in the Guidance and that will also be used in the GTAA Report. These are set out in the table below:

<p><b>Gypsies and Travellers</b></p>	<p>(a) Persons of a nomadic habit of life, whatever their race or origin, including:</p> <p>(1) Persons who, on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependant's educational or health needs or old age, have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, and</p> <p>(2) Members of an organized group of travelling show people or circus people (whether or not travelling together as such); and</p> <p>(b) All other persons with a cultural tradition of nomadism or of living in a mobile home.</p> <p>Source: Section 108, Housing (Wales) Act 2014</p>
<p><b>Residential site</b></p>	<p>A permanent residential site can be privately owned or owned by the Local Authority. This site will be designated for use as a Gypsy and Traveller site indefinitely. Residents on these sites can expect to occupy their pitches for as long as they abide by the terms of their pitch agreements, under the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013.</p> <p>Working space may also be provided on, or near, sites for activities carried out by community members.</p>
<p><b>Temporary residential site</b></p>	<p>These sites are residential sites which only have planning permission or a site licence for a limited period. Residents on these sites can expect to occupy their pitches for the duration of the planning permission or site licence (or as long as they abide by the terms of their pitch agreements, under the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013 – whichever is sooner).</p>

<p><b>Transit site</b></p>	<p>Transit sites are permanent facilities designed for temporary use by occupiers. These sites must be designated as such and provide a route for Gypsies and Travellers to maintain a nomadic way of life. Individual occupiers are permitted to reside on the site for a maximum of 3 months at a time.</p> <p>Specific terms under the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013 apply on these sites. Working space may also be provided on, or near, sites for activities carried out by community members</p>
<p><b>Temporary Stopping Place</b></p>	<p>Also known as a ‘stopping place’, ‘Atchin Tan’, or ‘green lane’, amongst other names. These are intended to be short-term in nature to assist Local Authorities where a need for pitches is accepted, however, none are currently available. Pro-actively identified temporary stopping places can be used to relocate inappropriately located encampments, whilst alternative sites are progressed.</p> <p>Temporary stopping places must make provision for waste disposal, water supply and sanitation at a minimum.</p>
<p><b>Residential pitch</b></p>	<p>Land on a mobile home site where occupiers are entitled to station their mobile homes indefinitely (unless stated in their pitch agreement). Typically includes an amenity block, space for a static caravan and touring caravan and parking.</p>
<p><b>Transit pitch</b></p>	<p>Land on a mobile home site where occupiers are entitled to station their mobile homes for a maximum of 3 months.</p> <p>Transit pitches can exist on permanent residential sites; however, this is not recommended.</p>
<p><b>Unauthorised encampment</b></p>	<p>Land occupied without the permission of the owner or without the correct land use planning permission. Encampments may be tolerated by the Local Authority, whilst alternative sites are developed.</p>

<p><b>Unauthorised development</b></p>	<p>Land occupied by the owner without the necessary land use planning permission.</p>
<p><b>Current residential supply</b></p>	<p>The number of authorised pitches which are available and occupied within the Local Authority or partnership area. This includes pitches on Local Authority or private sites.</p>
<p><b>Current residential demand</b></p>	<p>Those with a need for authorised pitches for a range of reasons, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An inability to secure an authorised pitch leading to occupation of unauthorised encampments;</li> <li>An inability to secure correct planning permission for an unauthorised development;</li> <li>Households living in overcrowded conditions and want a pitch;</li> <li>Households in conventional housing demonstrating cultural aversion;</li> <li>New households expected to arrive from elsewhere.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Future residential demand</b></p>	<p>The expected level of new household formation which will generate additional demand within the 5-year period of the accommodation assessment and longer LDP period.</p>
<p><b>Overall residential pitch need</b></p>	<p>The ultimate calculation of unmet accommodation need, which must be identified through the Gypsy and Traveller accommodation assessment process. This figure can be found by adding the immediate residential need to the future residential demand. The overall residential need will capture the needs across the 5-year period within which the accommodation assessment is considered to be robust.</p>
<p><b>Planned residential pitch supply</b></p>	<p>The number of authorised pitches which are vacant and available to rent on Local Authority or private sites. It also includes pitches which will be vacated in the near future by households moving to conventional housing or in other circumstances. Additional pitches which are due</p>



	to open or private sites likely to achieve planning permission shortly should be included as planned residential supply.
<b>Household</b>	In this guidance this refers to individuals from the same family who live together on a single pitch / house / encampment.
<b>Concealed or 'doubled-up' household</b>	<p>This refers to households which are unable to achieve their own authorised accommodation and are instead living within authorised accommodation (houses or pitches) assigned to another household.</p> <p>This may include adult children who have been unable to move home or different households occupying a single pitch.</p>
<b>Household growth</b>	In this guidance household growth is defined by the number of new households arising from households which are already accommodated in the area.

## 3. Analysis of Existing Data

- 3.1 The purpose of this section of the GTAA is to set out current information relating to the Gypsy and Traveller population in Bridgend County Borough including any previous assessments of need, socio-demographic data, caravan count data and the current provision of accommodation.

### Bridgend GTAA 2016

- 3.2 The most recent GTAA for Bridgend County Borough was completed by ORS and published in May 2016. Based upon the evidence presented in the study the estimated additional pitch provision needed for Gypsies and Travellers in Bridgend County Borough for the first 5 years of the GTAA plan period was for no additional pitches, and for the remainder of the GTAA plan period was for a further 1 additional pitch. This gave a total need for the whole GTAA plan period of 1 additional pitch.
- 3.3 It was recommended that there was not a need for the Council to provide a permanent transit site in Bridgend County Borough, and that the Council should continue to monitor the number of unauthorised encampments and use the management approach set out in the LDP and in the Gypsy and Traveller Management Protocol.
- 3.4 Whilst there are no Travelling Showpeople yards in Bridgend County Borough, contact was made with a number of Travelling Showpeople living in Bridgend County Borough, the Vale of Glamorgan and Gloucester who expressed a wish to independently develop a private yard in South Wales.

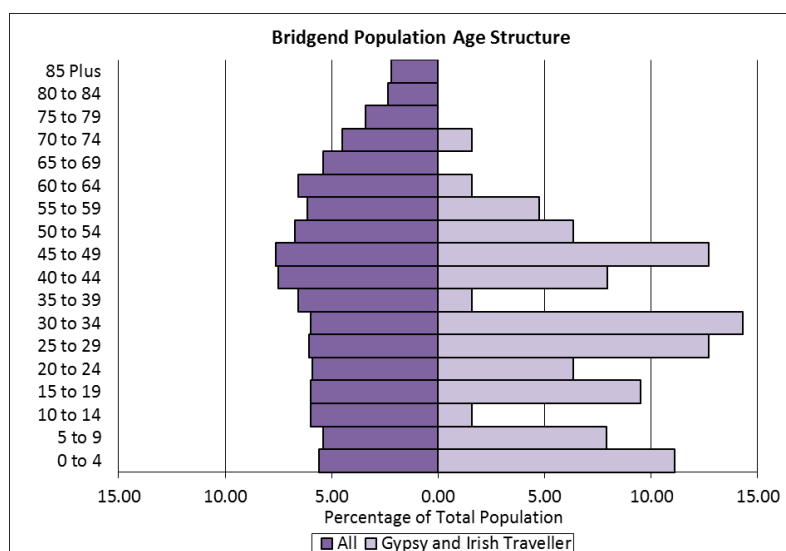
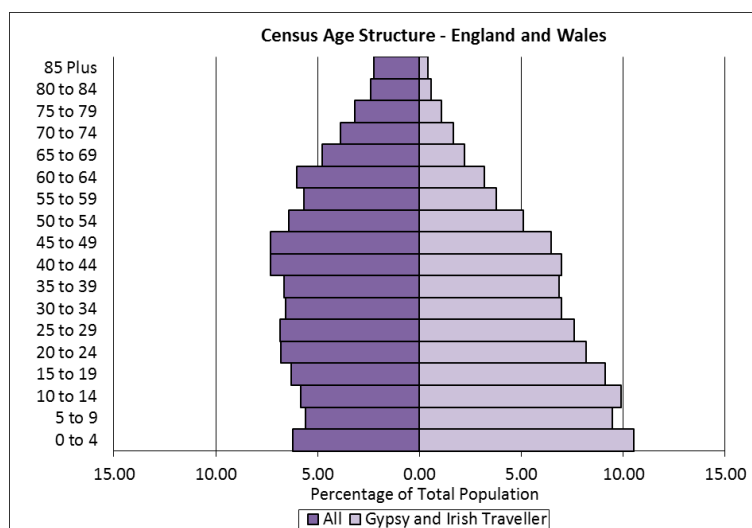
### Population Data – 2011 Census

- 3.5 Analysis of 2011 Census data relating to the Gypsy and Traveller population identified a total of 26 households (18 living in a house or bungalow, 4 living in a flat and 4 living in a caravan) and 63 individuals who identified themselves as Gypsies or Irish Travellers living in Bridgend County Borough – representing less than 0.05% of the population as a whole. It is likely that this could be an under-estimate given the accepted lower than average levels of response to the Census from the members of the Gypsy and Traveller community. The 2021 Census may provide a better understanding of the Gypsy and Traveller population through the inclusion of Roma in the question about ethnicity.
- 3.6 Despite the likely under-estimate of the population of Gypsies and Irish Travellers, data from the 2011 Census does identify some significant demographic differences when compared to the population as a whole. These are important in terms of explaining the higher rate of new household formation for Gypsy and Traveller households compared with the settled population. In summary the Census shows that nationally for England and Wales:
- » Just under half of Gypsy or Irish Traveller households had dependent children (45%), compared to 29% for England and Wales as a whole.
  - » The median age of Gypsies or Irish Travellers was 26 years compared to the national median of 39 years.
  - » Just 6% of the Gypsy or Irish Traveller population were aged 65 years and over compared to a national figure of 16%.

- » Gypsies or Irish Travellers below 20 years of age accounted for 39% of the population compared to a national figure of 24%.
- » Gypsies or Irish Travellers below 10 years of age accounted for 20% of the population compared to a national figure of 12%.
- » Gypsies or Irish Travellers had the lowest proportion of people rating their health as good or very good at 70% compared to a national figure of 81%.

3.7 The charts below show the age structure for the whole population (All) and the Gypsy or Irish Traveller population in England and Wales, and in Bridgend County Borough. This shows that there is a higher proportion of Gypsy or Irish Traveller children aged 0-9 and adults aged between 25 and 59, and significantly lower proportions of those aged 59 and over. This is due to higher birth rates and lower life expectancy for the Gypsy and Traveller population.

**Figure 2 - Comparison of Census Age Structure (2011 Census)**



3.8 When household composition data from the 2011 Census is compared between the overall population for Bridgend County Borough and those who identified themselves as Gypsies or Irish Travellers there are further differences. This shows that there are no single person Gypsy and Traveller households aged 65 and over, as

well as showing a higher proportion of lone parent households. These patterns are statistically consistent with national patterns in relation to the Travelling Community.

**Figure 3 - Comparison of Housing Composition in Bridgend County Borough (2011 Census)**

Household Composition	All Households (%)	Gypsy or Irish Traveller (%)
<b>One-person household</b>	<b>28.2</b>	<b>23.1</b>
Aged 65 and over	13.1	0.0
<b>One family only</b>	<b>66.0</b>	<b>65.4</b>
Ages 65 and over	8.9	0.0
Married or civil partnership	35.4	26.9
Cohabiting couple	9.9	11.5
Lone parent	9.0	26.9
<b>Other household types</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>3.8</b>

- 3.9 When accommodation type data from the 2011 Census is compared between the overall population for Bridgend County Borough and those who identified themselves as Gypsies or Irish Travellers there are also further differences. This shows a lower proportion of Gypsies or Irish Travellers living in detached properties and a much higher proportion living in flats, maisonettes or apartments, or mobile/temporary accommodation (or on Traveller sites).

**Figure 4 - Comparison of Accommodation Type in Bridgend County Borough (2011 Census)**

Accommodation Type	All Households (%)	Gypsy or Irish Traveller (%)
Whole house or bungalow: Total	92.9	68.6
Whole house or bungalow: Detached	25.8	17.6
Whole house or bungalow: Semi-detached	40.7	35.3
Whole house or bungalow: Terraced (including end-terrace)	26.3	15.7
Flat, maisonette or apartment, or mobile/temporary accommodation	7.1	31.4

- 3.10 When tenure type data from the 2011 Census is compared between the overall population for Bridgend County Borough and those who identified themselves as Gypsies or Irish Travellers there are again differences. This shows a lower proportion of Gypsy or Irish Traveller households that are owned outright or owned with a mortgage or through shared ownership – and a higher proportion of households that are socially rented, or privately rented.

Figure 5 - Comparison of Tenure Type in Bridgend County Borough (2011 Census)

Tenure	All Households (%)	Gypsy or Irish Traveller (%)
Owned or shared ownership: Total	72.6	30.8
Owned outright	35.0	15.4
Owned with a mortgage or loan or shared ownership	37.7	15.4
Social rented: Total	13.8	23.1
Rented from council (Local Authority)	4.0	0.0
Other social rented	9.9	23.1
Private rented or living rent free: Total	13.5	46.2
Private landlord or letting agency	10.8	38.5
Other private rented or living rent free	2.8	7.7

<sup>3.11</sup> When economic activity status data from the 2011 Census is compared between the overall population for Bridgend County Borough and those who identified themselves as Gypsies or Irish Travellers there are further differences. This actually shows that a slightly higher proportion of Gypsy or Irish Traveller households that are economically active but a lower proportion who are in employment; that a higher proportion who are unemployed and a higher proportion who are economically inactive due to looking after home or family; and a significantly lower proportion are economically inactive due to retirement (although there is a very small proportion of the Gypsy or Irish Traveller Census population in Bridgend County Borough aged over 60).

Figure 6 - Comparison of Economic Activity Status in Bridgend County Borough (2011 Census)

Economic Activity	All Households (%)	Gypsy or Irish Traveller (%)
Economically active: Total	58.6	65.3
In employment: Total	54.0	40.8
Employee: Total	46.4	30.6
Self-employed: Total	6.0	8.2
Unemployed: Total	4.6	24.5
Economically inactive: Total	41.4	34.7
Looking after home or family	3.5	8.2
Long-term sick or disabled	7.2	2.0
Retired	24.1	2.0

## Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count Data

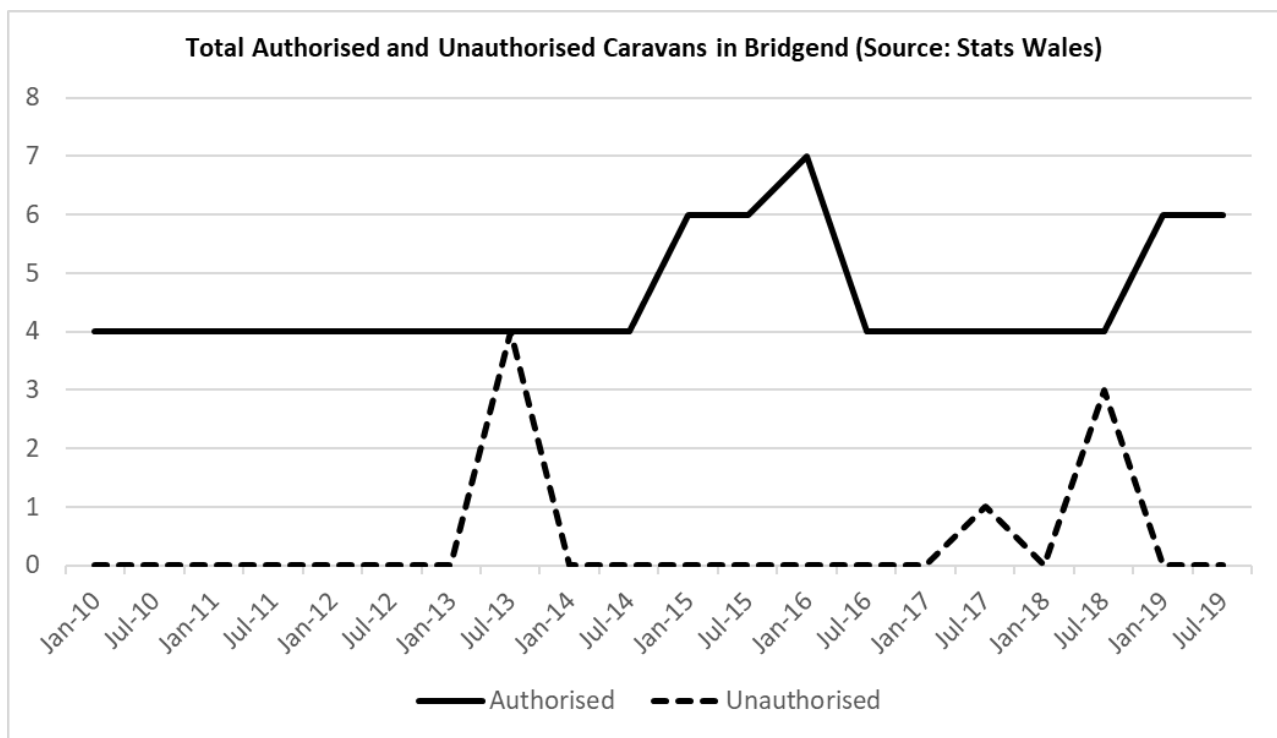
<sup>3.12</sup> Another source of published information on the Gypsy and Traveller population is the bi-annual Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count which is conducted by each Local Authority in Wales on a specific date in January and July of each year and reported to Welsh Government. This is a physical count of the number of *caravans* on both authorised and unauthorised sites across Wales.

<sup>3.13</sup> As this count is of caravans *and not* households, it makes it very difficult to interpret and use for a study such as this because it does not count pitches, resident households or household demographics. The count is a 'snapshot in time' conducted by the Local Authority on a specific day, and therefore any unauthorised sites

or encampments which occur on other dates are not recorded. Likewise, any caravans that are away from sites on the day of the count will not be included. The count also does not seek to determine the ethnic status of the occupiers of caravans.

- 3.14 However, the data captured in the Caravan Count does give an indication of the number of sites, and authorised and unauthorised caravans in each local authority, and can be useful in supporting the determination of any transit needs and identifying year on year trends to support an assessment of need.
- 3.15 The latest Gypsy and Traveller Caravan County data for Wales is from July 2019 and was published in October 2019.
- 3.16 Figure 6 shows data for the number of authorised and unauthorised caravans that have been recorded in the Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count in Bridgend County Borough for the period 2010-2019.

**Figure 7 - Comparison of the Number of Caravans in Bridgend County Borough**



- 3.17 The January 2020 Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count has not yet been verified and published by Welsh Government. However, the January 2020 count for Bridgend County Borough was completed by ORS and identified a total of 18 caravans on authorised private sites and 2 caravans on an unauthorised site.

## Current Accommodation Provision in Bridgend County Borough

- 3.18 One of the main considerations of this study is provide evidence to support the provision of pitches and plots to meet the current and future accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers in Bridgend County Borough. A pitch is an area which is large enough for one household to occupy and typically contains enough space for one or two caravans but can vary in size. A site is a collection of pitches which form a development exclusively for Gypsies and Travellers. For Travelling Showpeople, the most common descriptions used are a plot for the space occupied by one household and a yard for a collection of plots which are typically exclusively occupied by Travelling Showpeople.
- 3.19 The public and private provision of mainstream housing is also largely mirrored when considering Gypsy and Traveller accommodation. One common form of a Gypsy and Traveller site is a publicly provided residential site, which is provided by a Local Authority or by a Housing Association. Pitches on public sites can usually be obtained through signing up to a waiting list, and the costs of running the sites are met from the rent paid by the tenants (similar to social housing).
- 3.20 The alternatives to public residential sites are private residential sites and yards for Gypsies and Travellers. These result from individuals or families buying areas of land and then obtaining planning permission to live on them. Households can also rent pitches on some private sites that are run on a commercial basis. Therefore, these two forms of accommodation are the equivalent to private ownership and renting for those who live in bricks and mortar housing. Generally, the majority of Travelling Showpeople yards are privately owned and managed.
- 3.21 The Gypsy and Traveller population also has other forms of sites due to its mobile nature. Transit sites tend to contain many of the same facilities as a residential site, except that there is a limited period of residence which can vary from a period of weeks to a period of months. An alternative to a transit site is a temporary stopping place. This type of site also has restrictions on the length of time someone can stay on it but has much more limited facilities. A number of authorities also tolerate short-term stopovers without enforcement action.
- 3.22 Further considerations for the Gypsy and Traveller population are unauthorised developments and encampments. Unauthorised developments occur on land which is owned by the Gypsies and Travellers or with the approval of the landowner, but for which they do not have planning permission to use for residential purposes. Unauthorised encampments occur on land which is not owned by the Gypsies and Travellers – for example layby's or car parks.

## Sites and Yards in Bridgend County Borough

- 3.23 In Bridgend County Borough, at the baseline date for this GTAA, there were no public sites; 6 private sites; no unauthorised sites; no public or private transit provision; and no Travelling Showpeople yards.
- 3.24 Whilst there is a large permanent fairground situated in Porthcawl, there are no planning records or evidence to suggest that the site has ever been used or has had planning consent as a Showperson's yard. It is classified as a permanent fairground which is a sui generis use. However, it is understood that there are a small number of Travelling Showmen's households living at the site, which are tolerated by the Council

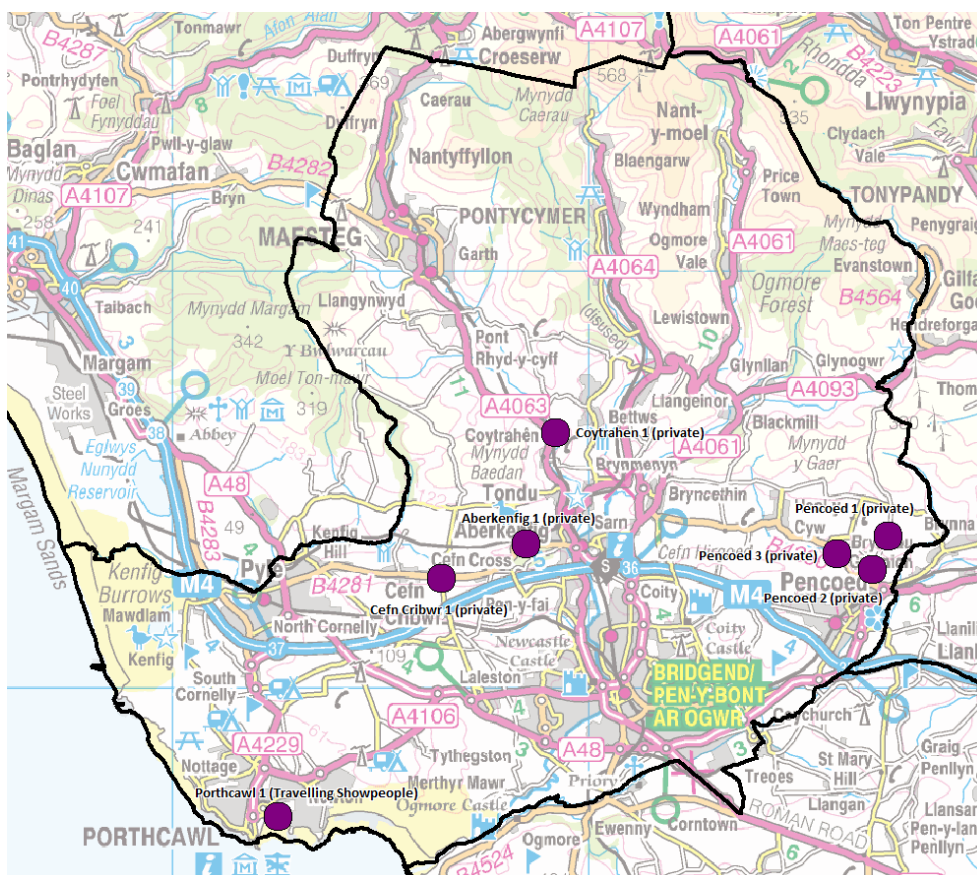
Figure 8 - Total amount of provision in Bridgend County Borough (April 2020)

Category	Sites/Yards	Pitches/Plots
Private with permanent planning permission	6	7
Private sites with temporary planning permission	0	0
Public sites	0	0
Public transit provision	0	0
Tolerated sites	0	0
Unauthorised sites	0	0
Authorised Travelling Showpeople yards	0	0
Tolerated Travelling Showpeople yards	0	0
Unauthorised Travelling Showpeople yards	0	0

Figure 9 - Sites and Yards in Bridgend County Borough (April 2020)

Site Name	Pitches/Plots	Status
Aberkenfig 1	1	Private
Cefn Cribwr 1	1	Private
Coytrahen 1	1	Private
Pencoed 1	1	Private
Pencoed 2	1	Private
Pencoed 3	2	Private

Map 1 - Indicative Location of Sites in Bridgend County Borough (April 2020)





## 4. Methodology

4.1 This section sets out the methodology that has been followed to deliver the outputs for this study. The Welsh Government GTAA Guidance issued under Section 106 of the Housing (Wales) Act sets out the requirements for the GTAA and the methodology and calculation of need that has been followed has sought to address these and allow for a full and robust GTAA to be completed. The study has been undertaken by Opinion Research Services in partnership with the Council and the approach taken covers the following core areas of work:

- » Setting up a Project Steering Group.
- » Identifying and analysing existing data sources.
- » Publicising the accommodation assessment.
- » Conducting the accommodation assessment surveys.
- » Calculating the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers.

4.2 The stages below provide a summary of the methodology that was used to complete this study.

### Project Steering Group

4.3 The Welsh Government GTAA Guidance requires that a Project Steering Group be established to ensure that the study is informed by all available local knowledge and expertise. The Council set up and managed the Steering Group and the individuals who attended meetings of the Steering Group in Bridgend County Borough were:

**Figure 10 – Bridgend County Borough GTAA Steering Group Membership**

Organisation	Role
Bridgend CBC	Development Planning
Bridgend CBC	Communications, Marketing and Engagement
Bridgend CBC	Education
Bridgend CBC	Development Planning
Bridgend CBC	Environmental Health
Bridgend CBC	Education
Bridgend CBC	Housing Solutions
Bridgend CBC	Community Cohesion
Bridgend CBC	Communications, Marketing and Engagement
Bridgend CBC	Communications, Marketing and Engagement
Bridgend CBC	Housing Strategy
Linc Cymru Housing Association	Registered Social Landlord Representative
Opinion Research Services	Consultant
Opinion Research Services	Consultant
Valleys 2 Coast Housing Association	Registered Social Landlord Representative
Wales and West Housing Association	Registered Social Landlord Representative

- 4.4 As set out in the GTAA Guidance the key responsibilities of the Steering Group were to agree on the aims and objectives of the study; promote the benefits of the study to members of the Travelling Community; help identify households living in bricks and mortar and on unauthorised sites and encampments; provide expert stakeholder input into the identification of local need; provide feedback on the emerging outputs from the study; and to share and promote the final outcomes to members of the Travelling Community. The first Steering Group meeting was held in December 2019, the second meeting was held in March 2020, and the final scheduled meeting was replaced with remote dissemination of the findings in May 2020.
- 4.5 The first Steering Group meeting discussed the background to the GTAA and clarified the purpose and the role of the Group. Means of communicating the GTAA were also discussed, together with opportunities to engage with households living in bricks and mortar. The second Steering Group meeting provided an opportunity for an update on the site fieldwork and the outcomes of the publicity that was put in place. The final Steering Group meeting involved sharing the GTAA Report, discussing how the study outcomes could be communicated to members of the Travelling Community and how to address the identified need.
- 4.6 In addition to the Steering Group meetings conversations were held with a number of Steering Group members to gain views and information to support the wider assessment of need. These included Planning Officers, Education Officers and Housing Officers. Contact was also made with representatives from the Showmen’s Guild and the Association of Independent Showpeople.
- 4.7 Finally, a short online survey was sent out to all Town and Community Councils in Bridgend County Borough.

## Identify and Analyse Existing Data

- 4.8 A desk-based review was undertaken to collate and analyse a range of secondary data and other local intelligence that has been used to identify and support the assessment of current and future accommodation need including:
- » Planning records.
  - » Census data.
  - » Site records and waiting lists.
  - » Caravan counts.
  - » Records of unauthorised sites/encampments.
  - » Information on planning applications/appeals.
  - » Information on enforcement actions.
  - » Existing GTAA’s and other relevant local studies.
  - » Existing national and local policy, guidance and best practice.

## Publicise the Accommodation Assessment

- 4.9 Effective publicity and pre-notification was put in place at the start of the Assessment in order to encourage the Travelling Community to participate in the site and household interviews. This was particularly important in terms of identifying households living in bricks and mortar accommodation.
- 4.10 The approach to publicity was agreed with members of the Steering Group prior to the fieldwork commencing. The publicity was managed by the Council and included a poster and flyer which was placed in key locations across Bridgend County Borough including Leisure Centres, Life Centres, Libraries, GP Surgeries, Dentist Surgeries, Supermarkets and Leisure Attractions. A full list can be found in **Appendix C**. The GTAA was advertised on the Council’s website, Facebook and Twitter pages. A letter was also left at sites where it was not possible to make contact with residents. Examples of the publicity can be seen in **Appendix D**. The main Housing Associations that operate in Bridgend County Borough were also provided with information regarding the GTAA and they advised the Council of any known households. Those households already known to the Steering Group and its internal and external partners were contacted directly by telephone and / or by letter (including letters sent home with school children) in accordance with GDPR. The households were able to either contact ORS directly themselves or give permission for the Council to provide their contact details to ORS.
- 4.11 The publicity set out above also included extensive work that was also completed by Officers from the Councils Education and Housing Departments to engage with members of the Travelling Community in Bridgend County Borough. This approach proved particularly successful and four of the households they engaged with ended up completing the household interview. As well as sending letters and flyers home with school children, Education staff adopted an ‘open door’ approach with families who wanted to discuss the GTAA. School secretaries read letters out to families individually, staff answered questions and encouraged households to participate in the GTAA. This happened in the weeks before and after letters and flyers were distributed. This stimulated discussion in the community, was well received and parents generally felt the assessment was a good idea.
- 4.12 Contact was also made with a Planning Agent who has represented households who have submitted planning applications for new Gypsy and Traveller sites in Bridgend County Borough in recent years. Through this process the Planning Agent was able to contact his clients to encourage them to engage with the GTAA process.

## Conducting the Accommodation Assessment Surveys

### Site Interviews

- 4.13 Through the desk-based research and information from the Steering Group, ORS sought to identify all authorised and unauthorised sites, yards and encampments in Bridgend County Borough, and sought to undertake a full census-style interview with of the residents on all pitches and plots – as required by the Welsh Government Guidance.

- 4.14 Following agreed publicity and pre-notification activities, all Gypsy and Traveller pitches (no Travelling Showmen’s plots were identified) were visited by ORS researchers. They sought to complete interviews with all of the residents using the questions set out in the GTAA Guidance.

### Bricks and Mortar Interviews

- 4.15 ORS worked closely with the Council to identify and encourage households living in bricks and mortar to participate in the GTAA. Contacts were identified through members of the Steering Group, speaking with people on existing sites and adverts on social media, in combination with the extensive local publicity set out above. Telephone interviews were attempted with all contacts that were identified in compliance with the GTAA Guidance.

### Calculate the Accommodation Needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

- 4.16 The Welsh Government GTAA Guidance sets out a detailed methodology to assess current and future pitch needs. This approach has been followed for the purpose of this GTAA. As with any housing assessment, the underlying calculation is comprised of a relatively small number of factors. In this case, the key issue for residential pitches is to compare the supply of pitches available for occupation with the current and future population need. This information has been obtained from a combination of the desk-based research and the outcomes of the site and household interviews, together with additional information from members of the Steering Group and other local stakeholders. The key factors in each of these elements are set out below.

### Current Residential Supply

- » Occupied local authority pitches.
- » Occupied authorised private pitches.
- » Vacant local authority pitches and available private pitches.
- » Pitches expected to be vacated in the near future.
- » New local authority pitches private pitches with planning permission.

### Current Residential Demand

- 4.17 Total current residential demand is made up of the following components. It was important to make full use of the desk-based research and intelligence from members of the Steering Group to address issues of double counting (for example bricks and mortar households who are also on the waiting list for pitches):
- » Households on unauthorised encampments.
  - » Households on unauthorised developments.
  - » Concealed /over-crowded/doubled-up households<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> Following the guidance set out in Paragraphs 195-201 of the GTAA Guidance.

- » Conventional housing – movement from bricks and mortar<sup>3</sup>.
- » New households to arrive from waiting lists/in-migration.

## Future Demand

- 4.18 Total future demand is a result of the formation of new households during the study period. ORS has undertaken extensive research into the population and household growth of the Gypsy and Traveller community in England and Wales (see Appendix E). This was used to inform this element of the Welsh Government GTAA Guidance (see Paragraphs 203-209). Paragraph 203 sets out that the research completed by ORS suggests that an acceptable growth rate is usually within the range of 1.50% – 3.00% per annum and Paragraph 204 sets out that Local Authorities should analyse the demographic data provided by community members to consider their own local anticipated growth over the 5 year period.
- 4.19 In addition, information from the site interviews provides details of the gross number of new households expected to form within the first 5 years of the study (although it is important to net this off against supply that has been identified during the first 5 years of the study).
- 4.20 The estimate of new household formation for years 6-13 of the study has been completed by applying a net compound formation rate based on demographic evidence from the site interviews that were completed. The base for this calculation is the figure arrived at for the first 5 years of the study which includes all current authorised households, all households identified as current demand (including those not currently living on a pitch or plot), and new household formation for years 0-5 of the study identified from the site interviews. Further evidence to support the approach taken to calculate new household formation is set out in Chapter 6.

## Final Outcomes

- 4.21 All of the components of supply and demand are presented in an easy to understand table as set out in the GTAA Guidance in Table 3. A separate table has been prepared for the current and future needs of Gypsies, Travellers and for Travelling Showpeople as their needs should be considered independently as their circumstances are different from that of the wider travelling community.

## Transit Provision

- 4.22 The GTAA also includes an assessment of the need for any transit sites or temporary stopping places to meet the needs of members of the Travelling Community who either travel permanently or for part of the year. In order to investigate the potential need for transit provision when undertaking the GTAA, ORS have undertaken analysis of records of unauthorised sites and encampments that were identified during the desk-based research. ORS have also sought to conduct interviews with Gypsies and Travellers on any sites present during the course of the study to identify whether their needs are for transit accommodation or permanent accommodation in any given locality. Data from the Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count has also been considered as supporting evidence.

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<sup>3</sup> Following the guidance set out in Paragraphs 172-183 of the GTAA Guidance.

## Compliance with Engagement Checklist

<sup>4.23</sup> The table below shows that this GTAA has been compliant with all of points set out in the Engagement Checklist in the Welsh Government GTAA Guidance.

Figure 11 – Engagement Checklist

	Task	Completed
1	<p>Visit every Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showperson household identified through the data analysis process up to 3 times, if necessary.</p> <p><i>All sites were visited up to 3 times and some more than 3 times.</i></p>	✓
2	<p>Publish details of the GTAA process, including contact details to allow community members to request an interview, on the local authority website, Travellers Times website and the World's Fair publication.</p> <p><i>Extensive publicity was undertaken to promote the GTAA and details can be found in Appendix C and Appendix D. However, Worlds Fair ceased being published as a weekly newspaper in 2019 and Travellers Times no longer publish details of GTAAs on their Facebook pages.</i></p>	✓
3	<p>Consult relevant community support organisations, such as those in Annex 1.</p> <p><i>Due to the very low number of Gypsy sites in Bridgend County Borough only the Showman's Guild were contacted. In addition, engagement was completed with Housing Associations who operate in the study area.</i></p>	✓
4	<p>Develop a Local Authority waiting list for both pitches and housing, which is accessible and communicated to community members.</p> <p><i>There are no public sites in Bridgend County Borough.</i></p>	✓
5	<p>Endeavour to include Gypsies and Travellers on the GTAA Project Steering Group.</p> <p><i>Due to the small numbers of Gypsy and Traveller households within the county borough, it was not possible to encourage a member of the Gypsy and Traveller community to sit on the Steering Group.</i></p>	✓
6	<p>Ensure contact details provided to the local authority by community members through the survey process are followed up and needs assessed.</p> <p><i>All contacts provided to and by the local authority were followed up with a combination of interviews with members of the Travelling Community.</i></p>	✓
7	<p>Consider holding on-site (or nearby) GTAA information events to explain why community members should participate and encourage site residents to bring others who may not be known to the local authority.</p> <p><i>Due to the very small number of sites in Bridgend County Borough this was not thought to be appropriate.</i></p>	✓

## 5. Survey Findings

### Background

- 5.1 The desk-based research and additional information from members of the Steering Group identified a total of 5 private Gypsy and Traveller sites with permanent planning permission; 1 unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller site; and no Travelling Showpeople yards in Bridgend County Borough.

**Figure 12 - Sites in Bridgend County Borough (April 2020)**

Site Name	Pitches	Status
Aberkenfig 1	1	Private - Permanent
Cefn Cribwr 1	1	Private - permanent
Coytrahen 1	1	Private - Permanent
Pencoed 1	1	Private - Permanent
Pencoed 2	1	Private - Permanent
Pencoed 3	2	Private - Permanent
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	

- 5.2 Interviews were attempted between January and March 2020 and a total of 3 successful interviews were completed with households on 2 of the private sites. Whilst it was possible to make contact with residents on 3 of the other private sites, the residents refused to take part in an interview, and it was not possible to make contact with residents on the other private site. In addition, an interview was completed with a Travelling Showpeople household living on land in Porthcawl.
- 5.3 The GTAA Guidance advocates the use of intermediaries trusted by the community to encourage Travellers to participate in household interviews. Discussions were therefore held with a Planning Agent as an intermediary in an attempt to further encourage participation. The Agent represented and had developed a rapport with households living on the 2 occupied sites where he had represented households. Several attempts were made to encourage these households to participate in an interview, however, both sets of households still expressed no interest in taking part in the Assessment.
- 5.4 The same Planning Agent also represented families who recently applied for planning permission to develop 2 sites that have now been refused planning permission. Several attempts were made to encourage the prospective occupiers of these sites to participate in the GTAA. However, despite these engagement attempts, neither household chose to participate. Historical supporting information was provided to accompany the respective planning applications and this suggested potential in-migration from households living on sites in other local authorities. However, this information was compiled in advance of the GTAA taking place and as such it is unclear whether this information accurately captures the most current circumstances for these families. In addition, no consent has been given to use this information for another purpose. Without these households having actively participated in the GTAA, it has therefore not been possible to understand their current circumstances and distinguish between their accommodation needs and

accommodation preferences / aspirations. Therefore, it has not been possible to include any potential need arising from these households from in-migration within the overall calculation of need.

- 5.5 As set out earlier in this report the Council deployed extensive publicity materials about the GTAA to raise awareness of the study and to encourage households living in bricks and mortar to participate in an interview. ORS also worked closely with Steering Group Members from Education and Housing to identify households living to interview, including those living in bricks and mortar.
- 5.6 The wider publicity and engagement from Education Officers led to a Gypsy and Traveller household living in bricks and mortar contacting ORS and completing an interview; the interview set out above with the Travelling Showpeople household living in Porthcawl; and an interview with a household currently living on a public site in Merthyr Tydfil who stated a preference to move to a site in Bridgend County Borough to be closer to family members.
- 5.7 The discussions with Education Officers led to letters being sent and discussions held with a total of 6 households living in bricks and mortar in Bridgend County Borough, and to letters being sent and discussions with 3 households living on private sites in Bridgend County Borough and with 2 households living on a public site in Neath Port Talbot with links to education in Bridgend County Borough. These discussions helped to encourage 1 household in bricks and mortar and 3 households on sites to complete an interview.
- 5.8 The discussions with Housing Officers led to letters being sent to a total of 3 households living in bricks and mortar and to a discussion with 1 transient household stopping temporarily on an unauthorised encampment in Bridgend County Borough. However, all of these households declined to take part in an interview.

**Figure 13 – Interview Summary for Bridgend County Borough**

Site Name	Pitches	Interviews	Refusals	No Contact
Aberkenfig 1	1	0	1	0
Cefn Cribwr 1	1	0	1	0
Coytrahen 1	1	1	0	0
Pencoed 1	1	0	0	1
Pencoed 2	1	0	0	1
Pencoed 2	2	2	0	0
Travelling Showpeople	-	1	0	0
Other LA Site	-	1	2	0
Unauthorised Encampment	-	0	1	0
Bricks & Mortar	-	1	8	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>

## Interview Log

- 5.9 An anonymised copy of the Interview Log can be found in **Appendix B**.



## Overview and Demographics of Residents

- <sup>5.10</sup> Information collected on the type of accommodation lived in shows that the Gypsies and Travellers who were interviewed for the Bridgend County Borough GTAA live on private sites, public sites<sup>4</sup>, in bricks and mortar, and on a fairground.
- <sup>5.11</sup> Ethnicity data was captured from all of the households that were interviewed. This indicated that they are Welsh Travellers, English Travellers and Romany Gypsies.
- <sup>5.12</sup> In total the interviews covered 7 households comprising 26 residents - 13 adults and 13 children and teenagers aged under 18. This equates to 50% adults and 50% children and teenagers. When compared with data from the 2018 Mid-Year Population Estimate for Bridgend County Borough as a whole (the settled community and the Gypsy or Irish Traveller community) this shows the same proportion by gender and a significantly higher proportion of those aged under 18 in the Traveller population when compared to that of the Bridgend County Borough population as a whole. This is important when determining the new household growth rate that will be applied to the population when longer-term need is determined<sup>5</sup>.

**Figure 14 – Age and Gender of Household Members (April 2020)**

Age and Gender	Number	GTAA Interviews	MYE (2018)
Male	13	50%	50%
Female	13	50%	50%
Under 18	13	50%	20%
18 and Over	13	50%	80%

<sup>4</sup> In another local authority.

<sup>5</sup> See Chapter 6 for further details on determining new household formation in Bridgend County Borough.

## Interview Summary

### Private Sites

#### Coytrahen 1

- 5.13 Staff from ORS completed interviews at this private site in February 2020. The site has planning consent for a hardstanding for a mobile home and an associated utility block. The site was occupied by Welsh and English Travellers.
- 5.14 There was a doubled-up household identified living on the site who stated that they need a site/pitch of their own immediately. They stipulated that the type of accommodation they need is either on a public site or a private site, dependant on what is available, and that they would like to join a waiting list for a public site if one was available. There was also 1 teenage resident who will need a pitch of their own in the next 3-5 years.
- 5.15 The residents are satisfied with the site and all live there as a result of local connections. Only the doubled-up household felt that they cannot continue to live on the site due to wanting a site/pitch of their own in order to start a family.
- 5.16 It was felt that additional transit provision is needed in Pembrokeshire, Mid-Wales and Bridgend

#### Pencoed 3

- 5.17 Staff from ORS completed interviews at this private site in February 2020. The site has planning consent for 2 residential pitches. Interviews were completed with residents on both pitches. The site was occupied by Welsh Travellers.
- 5.18 There were no concealed or doubled-up households identified and there were enough sleeping areas. There were no residents who want to move to their own home in the next 5 years. One of the households indicated that a close relative, who is currently living on a public site in a different Local Authority in South Wales, would like to move to Bridgend. The household in another local authority was interviewed separately.
- 5.19 The residents are generally satisfied with the site and all live there as a result of local connections. No household gave any reasons why they cannot continue to live on the site.
- 5.20 It was felt that additional transit provision is needed in Cardiff, Llanelli, Newport and Pembrokeshire.

### Travelling Showpeople

- 5.21 An interview was completed with 1 Travelling Showperson household living on land in Porthcawl. This household stated that their current accommodation was unsuitable for their needs and that they are seeking to privately purchase land to develop a new yard to operate from.

## Bricks & Mortar

- <sup>5.22</sup> An interview was completed with 1 Gypsy and Traveller household living in bricks and mortar and currently in temporary accommodation. The household indicated a wish to move to a site, and that they already own land in Bridgend. The land does not currently have planning permission, and the household would wish to settle there if given permission. There were also 2 teenagers who will need a pitch of their own in the next 5 years.

## Interviews in other Local Authorities

- <sup>5.23</sup> An interview was completed with 1 Gypsy and Traveller household living on a public site in another local authority in South Wales. The household indicated a preference to move to a site in Bridgend due to close family connections in the area.

## 6. Assessing Accommodation Needs

- 6.1 This section focuses on the additional pitch provision which is needed by Bridgend Council for a period of 5 years and for the new Local Plan period up to 2033. This includes both current unmet need and need which is likely to arise in the future. This time period allows for robust forecasts for future provision, based upon the evidence contained within this study and also from secondary data sources.
- 6.2 This section is based upon a combination of information from the on-site surveys, planning records, Steering Group members, and from other stakeholders. In many cases, the survey data is not used in isolation, but instead is used to validate information from planning records or other sources.
- 6.3 This section concentrates not only upon the total additional provision which is needed in the area, but also whether there is a need for any transit sites and/or emergency stopping place provision.
- 6.4 Welsh Government Guidance requires an assessment of current and future pitch needs and provides a prescribed framework for undertaking this calculation. This framework has been followed for the purpose of this GTAA.
- 6.5 As with any assessment of housing need the underlying calculation can be broken down into a relatively small number of factors. In this case, the key issue for residential pitches is to compare the supply that is available for occupation with the current and future needs of the households. The key factors in each of these elements are set out in the sections below.

### Current Residential Supply

- » Occupied local authority pitches.
- » Occupied authorised private pitches.
- » Vacant local authority pitches and available private pitches.
- » Pitches expected to be vacated in the near future.
- » New local authority pitches private pitches with planning permission.

### Current Residential Demand

- » Households on unauthorised encampments.
- » Households on unauthorised developments.
- » Concealed /over-crowded/doubled-up households<sup>6</sup>.
- » Conventional housing – movement from bricks and mortar<sup>7</sup>.
- » New households to arrive from waiting lists/in-migration.

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<sup>6</sup> Following the guidance set out in Paragraphs 195-201 of the GTAA Guidance.

<sup>7</sup> Following the guidance set out in Paragraphs 172-183 of the GTAA Guidance.

## Future Demand

- 6.6 Total future demand is a result of the formation of new households during the GTAA study period. Information from the site interviews provides details of the gross number of new households expected to form within the first 5 years of the study (although it is important to net this off against any supply during the first 5 years of the study). New household formation for years 6-13 of the study has been based on demographic evidence from the site interviews.

## Current Authorised Residential Supply

- 6.7 To assess the current Gypsy and Traveller provision it is important to understand the total number of authorised pitches and their planning status. There are no public sites in Bridgend County Borough and 5 small private sites with a total of 6 pitches. There is no public or private transit provision and there are Travelling Showpeople yards – although a Travelling Showpeople household was identified living in Porthcawl.

Figure 15 - Total number of sites in Bridgend County Borough as at April 2020

Category	Sites	Pitches	Occupied
Private sites with permanent planning permission	6	7	7
Private sites with temporary planning permission	0	0	0
Public sites (Council and Registered Providers)	0	0	0
Public transit provision	0	0	0
Private transit provision	0	0	0

- 6.8 The next stage of the process is to assess how much space is, or will become, available on existing sites in order to determine the supply of available pitches. The main ways of finding this is through:
- » **Current vacant pitches** – There are no vacant pitches in Bridgend County Borough.
  - » **Pitches expected to become vacant** – There are no public sites in Bridgend County Borough.
  - » **Pitches currently with planning permission** – There are no unimplemented pitches with planning permission in Bridgend County Borough.
- 6.9 This gives a figure for **overall supply of no pitches**.

## Current Residential Demand

- 6.10 The next stage of the process is to assess current need and determine how many households are currently seeking pitches in the area.

## Current Unauthorised and Tolerated Sites

- 6.11 A problem with many Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments is that they often count all caravans on unauthorised developments and encampments as requiring a pitch in the area, when in practice many are

simply visiting or passing through, and some may be on sites that are tolerated for planning purposes. In order to remedy this, ORS' approach is to treat need as only those households on unauthorised and tolerated sites already in the planning system (i.e. sites/pitches for which a planning application has been made or are likely to be made); those otherwise known to the Council as being resident in the area; or those identified through the household survey as requiring pitches.

- 6.12 The study has identified no unauthorised sites in Bridgend County Borough, and there are no sites with temporary planning permission.

### Over-Crowded Pitches

- 6.13 The site interviews sought to identify concealed or doubled-up households on authorised sites that require a pitch immediately. A concealed household is one living in a multi-family household in addition to the primary family, such as a young couple living with parents, who need their own separate family accommodation, but are unable to do obtain it because of a lack of space on public or private sites, or a single family member or individual living within an existing family unit in need of separate accommodation. A doubled-up household is a family or single adult living in a separate accommodation unit on a site where there are more than the permitted number of caravans on a pitch or plot.
- 6.14 The information collected during the site interviews identified one doubled-up household on a site in Bridgend County Borough.

### Conventional Housing

- 6.15 Identifying households in bricks and mortar has been frequently highlighted as an issue with Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments. The 2011 UK Census of Population identified a total of just 22 Gypsy or Irish Traveller households in Bridgend living in bricks and mortar, of which 18 were identified as living in a house or bungalow and 4 in a flat, maisonette or apartment.
- 6.16 As noted earlier, the Council went to all possible lengths to identify Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar to interview. Whilst contact was made with a total of 9 households, this process resulted in just 1 interview with a Gypsy and Traveller household living in bricks and mortar in Bridgend County Borough. This household is living in temporary accommodation and is seeking to develop a private site.

### New Households to Arrive

- 6.17 There is no public site in Bridgend County Borough so there is no waiting list. Assessments also need to consider in-migration (households requiring accommodation who move into the study area from outside) and out-migration (households moving away from the study area). Site surveys typically identify only small numbers of in-migrant and out-migrant households and the data is not normally robust enough to extrapolate long-term trends. At the national level, there is zero net migration of Gypsies and Travellers across the UK, but this assessment has taken into account local migration effects on the basis of the best local evidence available.

6.18 Evidence drawn from household interviews in Bridgend County Borough has been carefully considered and has identified one household living on a public site in another local authority in South Wales that is seeking to move to Bridgend County Borough – however this is seen as a preference as opposed to a need. In addition, documents submitted to support 2 planning applications for new sites that have recently been refused planning permission suggest that the potential occupiers of these sites currently live in other local authorities. However, it is not possible to confirm the accuracy of this information or to determine whether there is a need or a preference to move to Bridgend County Borough. There was no other evidence of movement due to in-migration or out-migration. Beyond this, rather than assess in-migrant households seeking to develop new sites in the area, it is recommended that each case is assessed as a desire to live in the area and that site criteria rules are followed for each new site. It is therefore important for the Council to continue to follow its existing criteria-based planning policies for any new potential sites which do arise. In addition, no formal contact has been made by any other local authorities to advise of any Gypsy and Traveller households that may seek to reside or resort to Bridgend County Borough.

### Additional Pitch Provision: Future Need

6.19 The next stage of the process is to assess future need and determine how many households are likely to be seeking pitches in the area in the future during the first 5 years of the assessment and for the longer 13-year new Local Plan period. There are two key components of future need.

- » Population and household growth.
- » Movement to and from sites and migration.

### Population and Household Growth

6.20 Nationally, a household formation and growth rate of 3.00% net per annum has been commonly assumed and widely used in local Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments, even though there is no statistical evidence of households growing so quickly. The result has been to inflate both national and local requirements for additional pitches unrealistically. In this context, ORS has prepared a *Technical Note on Household Formation and Growth Rates*. The main conclusions are set out here and the full Technical Note can be found in **Appendix E**.

6.21 Those seeking to provide evidence of high annual net household growth rates for Gypsies and Travellers have sometimes sought to rely on increases in the number of caravans, as reflected in the Caravan Counts. However, Caravan Count data is unreliable and erratic – so the only proper way to project future population and household growth is through detailed demographic analysis.

6.22 The research undertaken by ORS has identified that in fact, the growth in the national Gypsy and Traveller population may be as low as 1.50% per annum – much less than the 3.00% per annum often assumed, but still greater than in the settled community. Even using extreme and unrealistic assumptions, it is hard to find evidence that net Gypsy and Traveller population and household growth rates are above 2.00% per annum nationally.

6.23 There are 2 measures of household growth that are used for the assessment of need in this study. Evidence of *gross* household formation (family growth) from Section D of the Household Survey, *netted off* against any

evidence of 1-year pitch turnover and pitches expected to become vacant, has been used for the first 5-year period. New household formation for years 6-13 has been based on demographic evidence from the site interviews.

- 6.24 The site and bricks and mortar interviews identified **3 new households** as a result of family growth over the first 5 years of the assessment – 1 living on a private site in Bridgend and 2 living in bricks and mortar, and **no pitch turnover**.
- 6.25 The estimate of new household formation for years 6-13 of the study has been completed by applying a net compound formation rate based on demographic evidence from the site interviews that were completed. This has been done by adjusting the ORS national growth rate of 1.50% based on the demographics of the households that were interviewed. The ORS national rate of 1.50% is based on 36% of the population being under the age of 18. The proportion of the population aged under 18 in the site interviews that were completed for the GTAA was 41%. This results in a net compound growth rate of 1.70%. The household base for this calculation is 11 - the figure arrived at for the first 5 years of the study which includes all current authorised households, all households identified as current demand (including those not currently living on a pitch or plot), and new household formation for years 0-5 of the study identified from the site interviews.
- 6.26 Using this approach, the GTAA has identified new household formation of up to 1 household between 2025 and 2029 and formation of up to a further 1 household between 2030 and 2033.



## Overall Need for Bridgend County Borough

- 6.27 Each element of the calculation for the need has been carefully examined and the next stage of the process is to balance current and future need against supply to provide an overall need for Bridgend County Borough following the approach that is set out in the Welsh Government GTAA Guidance.
- 6.28 The Welsh Government Guidance requires 2 assessments of need – for the first 5 years of the plan period and for the full Local Plan period. Following this approach, the estimated provision that is needed in Bridgend County Borough for the first 5 years is for **5 pitches**. The estimated provision that is needed for the remainder of the GTAA plan period (years 6-13) is for **2 pitches**. This equates to a total of **7 pitches** for the 13-year new Local Plan period.

Figure 16 – Pitch Need for Gypsies and Travellers in Bridgend County Borough from 2020-2033

Current Residential Supply		Number of Pitches	Notes
A.	Occupied Local Authority Pitches	0	No public sites
B.	Occupied authorised private pitches/tolerated pitches	6	6 pitches on 5 private sites
<b>Total</b>		<b>6</b>	
Planned Residential Supply		Number of Pitches	
C.	Vacant Local Authority pitches and available vacant pitches	0	No public sites
D.	Pitches expected to become vacant in near future	0	No public sites
E.	New Local Authority and private pitches with planning permission	0	No unimplemented pitches
<b>Total</b>		<b>0</b>	
Current Residential Demand		Pitch Demand	
F.	Unauthorised encampments	0	No unauthorised encampments
G.	Unauthorised developments	0	No unauthorised sites
H.	Overcrowded pitches/Unsuitable accommodation	1	1 doubled-up household
I.	Conventional housing	1	1 household from housing
J.	New households to arrive	0	
<b>Total</b>		<b>2</b>	
Current Households		Future Households (at year 5)	Future Households (years 6 to 13)
K.	8	11	13
L.	Additional household pitch need	3	2
Unmet Need		Need Arising	Need Accommodated
M.	Current residential demand	2	
N.	Future residential demand (year 5)	3	
O.	Future residential demand (years 6 to 15)	2	
P.	Planned residential supply		0
Q.	Unmet need (5 year)	5	
R.	Unmet need (New Local Plan period)	7	

## Need for Travelling Showpeople Plots

6.29 Whilst there are no formal Travelling Showpeople yards in Bridgend County Borough, a telephone interview was completed with a Travelling Showperson household living on a site in Porthcawl. This household stated that their current accommodation was unsuitable for their needs and that they are seeking to privately purchase land to develop a new yard to operate from. As such there is no identified current or future need for Travelling Showpeople plots in Bridgend County Borough over the Local Plan period to 2033.

Figure 17 – Plot Need for Travelling Showpeople in Bridgend County Borough from 2020-2033

Current Residential Supply		Number of Plots
A. Occupied Local Authority Plots		0
B. Occupied authorised private plots/tolerated plots		0
<b>Total</b>		<b>0</b>
Planned Residential Supply		Number of Plots
C. Vacant Local Authority plots and available vacant plots		0
D. Plots expected to become vacant in near future		0
E. New Local Authority and private plots with planning permission		0
<b>Total</b>		<b>0</b>
Current Residential Demand		Plots Demand
F. Unauthorised encampments		0
G. Unauthorised developments		0
H. Overcrowded plots/Unsuitable accommodation		0
I. Conventional housing		0
J. New households to arrive		0
<b>Total</b>		<b>0</b>
Current Households	Future Households (at year 5)	Future Households (years 6 to 13)
K. 0	0	0
L. Additional household pitch need	0	0
Unmet Need	Need Arising	Need Accommodated
M. Current residential demand	0	
N. Future residential demand (year 5)	0	
O. Future residential demand (years 6 to 15)	0	
P. Planned residential supply		0
Q. Unmet need (5 year)	0	
R. Unmet need (New Local Plan period)	0	

## Transit/Emergency Stopping Site Provision

- 6.30 Transit sites serve a specific function of meeting the needs of Gypsy and Traveller households who are visiting an area or who are passing through. A formal transit site typically has a restriction on the length of stay of around 13 weeks and can have a range of facilities such as water supply, electricity and in some cases amenity blocks. An alternative to a transit site is a temporary stopping place. This type of site also has restrictions on the length of time a Traveller can stay on it but has much more limited facilities with typically only a source of water and chemical toilets provided.
- 6.31 The Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (as amended by the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003) is particularly important with regard to the issue of Gypsy and Traveller transit site provision. Section 62A of the Act allows the Police to direct trespassers to remove themselves, their vehicles and their property from any land where a suitable pitch on a relevant caravan site is available within the same Local Authority area. A suitable pitch on a relevant caravan site is a public pitch with planning permission which is situated in the same Local Authority area as the land on which the trespass has occurred. Advice provided by the authors of the Gypsy and Traveller Law book sets out that a suitable pitch must be somewhere where the household can occupy their caravan and not bricks and mortar housing<sup>8</sup>.
- 6.32 Therefore, a transit site both provides a place for households in transit to an area and also a mechanism for enforcement action against unauthorised encampments.
- 6.33 In order to identify whether there is a need for the Council to provide transit accommodation analysis has been undertaken of the Wales Caravan Count data, reported unauthorised encampments between 2016 and 2019, and the outcomes from the household interviews.
- 6.34 Analysis of the number of authorised and unauthorised caravans that have been recorded in Bridgend County Borough for the period between November 2016 and August 2019 show only 12 instances of unauthorised encampments. These were all identified as short term and transient and no local accommodation need was identified. Being on the M4 Corridor Bridgend could be seen as a potential stop-off point for Irish Travellers making their way to and from Ireland at the beginning and end of the travelling season. Given that the majority of recorded encampments in Bridgend County Borough are in the Spring and Autumn this is suggestive of the travelling movements of Irish Travellers.
- 6.35 Following the publication of the 2010 Bridgend County Borough GTAA the Council considered whether the provision of a small transit site could be used to deal with unauthorised temporary encampments, or whether a management solution might be more cost effective and potentially provide better outcomes for both Gypsies and Travellers and the Council. Following these considerations, the Council chose to put in place a management-based solution to address small numbers of unauthorised encampments that occur in Bridgend County Borough.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.travellerstimes.org.uk/features/lawyers-opinion-police-powers-and-unauthorised-camps-travellers-motor-vehicles-and>

- 6.36 The lack of need identified from primary interviews coupled with the low number of unauthorised encampments does not evidence need for transit provision in Bridgend County Borough.
- 6.37 As such it is recommended that there is **not a need for the Council to provide a permanent transit site** in Bridgend County Borough at this time. However, the Council should continue to monitor the number of unauthorised encampments and continue to follow the management-based approach set out in the Gypsy and Traveller Management Protocol through the use of short-term toleration to deal with short-term transient stops. If it becomes apparent that a growing number of unlawful encampments are settling within the County Borough for periods exceeding several days at a time, then this position will need to be re-visited.

## 7. Conclusions

### Gypsy and Traveller Future Pitch Provision

- 7.1 Based upon the evidence presented in this study the estimated additional pitch provision needed for Gypsies and Travellers in Bridgend County Borough for the first 5 years of the GTAA plan period is for **5 pitches**, and for the remainder of the new Local Plan period to 2033 is for a further **2 pitches**. This gives a total need for the whole GTAA period of **7 pitches**. These figures should be seen as the projected amount of provision which is necessary to meet the statutory obligations towards identifiable needs of the population arising in the area. These figures are made up of a combination of doubled-up households; movement from bricks and mortar; and new household formation.

### Plot Needs - Travelling Showpeople

- 7.2 Whilst there are no formal Travelling Showpeople yards in Bridgend County Borough, contact was made with a household living on a site in Porthcawl. There was no current or future need for plots identified from this household.

### Transit Sites

- 7.3 that there is not a need for the Council to provide a permanent transit site in Bridgend County Borough at this time. However, the Council should continue to monitor the number of unauthorised encampments and continue to follow the management-based approach set out in the Gypsy and Traveller Management Protocol through the use of short-term toleration to deal with short-term transient stops. If it becomes apparent that a growing number of unlawful encampments are settling within the County Borough for periods exceeding several days at a time, then this position will need to be re-visited.

### Addressing Identified Need

- 7.4 In general terms need identified in a GTAA should be seen as need for additional pitches. Welsh Government Guidance on Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites (2015) recommends that as a minimum a pitch should be capable of accommodating an amenity block, a mobile home, a touring caravan and parking for two vehicles. However, this guidance relates only to public sites provided by Local Authorities and there are currently no public sites in Bridgend.
- 7.5 Given that there are no public sites in Bridgend, it is recommended that alternative approaches should be considered by the Council when seeking to address the levels of need identified in this GTAA.
- 7.6 The first approach to consider is in relation to concealed or doubled-up households and teenagers who will be in need of a pitch of their own in the next 5 years. In the short to medium term it is likely that the accommodation needs of these individuals could be met through additional touring caravans or smaller mobile homes on existing sites which are, generally, each equivalent to the provision of a pitch, as opposed to full new formally set out pitches.

- 7.7 The second approach to consider is for sites occupied by larger extended family groups. Sites like these are often able to meet their overall accommodation needs through intensification and redesign including shared facilities such as amenity blocks, or through expansion onto adjacent land that may be in their ownership.
- 7.8 It is common for conditions in Decision Notices for Travellers sites to simply place limits on the numbers and types of caravans as opposed to placing limits on the number of pitches. Therefore, the current conditions for private sites in Bridgend County Borough could be amended to allow for additional units on existing sites.
- 7.9 It is therefore suggested that the current need identified in this GTAA from teenage children living on private sites could be addressed through the intensification of existing sites to increase the number of caravans that are currently permitted. The Council have been provided with additional information that will allow them to consider sites that are suitable for intensification.
- 7.10 The outcomes of the interview with the household living in bricks and mortar suggested that they own land in Bridgend County Borough that could be developed to provide for their needs. It is therefore recommended that the Council engage with this household to determine if the land is suitable for development as a Gypsy site, and if so to work with them to bring forward a planning application.
- 7.11 The Council will need to consider how best to address the need identified from the doubled-up household on one of the private sites. The household stated that they would consider living on a public site or a private site – depending on what land is available. Short-term need for this household could also be addressed through amending the conditions of the site they are living on to permit additional caravans. However, this should not be seen as a long-term solution.
- 7.12 The Council will also need to carefully consider how to address any needs from households where it was not possible to complete an interview, from households seeking to move to Bridgend County Borough (in-migration/windfall sites), and from households currently living in bricks and mortar that were not interviewed. In terms of Local Plan Policies, the Council should consider the use of a criteria-based policy to address these needs should they arise.
- 7.13 Finally, it is recognised that the Council are in the process of reviewing their Local Plan that sets out how overall housing need will be addressed. The findings of this report should be considered as part of future housing mix and type within the context of the assessment of overall housing need in relation to Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.

# Appendix A: Sites and Yards in Bridgend County Borough (April 2020)

Site/Yard	Operational Pitches/Plots	Unauthorised Pitches/Plots
<b>Public Sites</b>		
None	-	-
<b>Private Sites with Permanent Permission</b>		
None	-	-
<b>Private Sites with Temporary Permission</b>		
Aberkenfig 1	1	-
Cefn Cribwr 1	1	-
Coytrahen 1	1	-
Pencoed 1	1	-
Pencoed 2	1	-
Pencoed 3	2	-
<b>Tolerated Sites</b>		
None	-	-
<b>Unauthorised Sites</b>		
None	-	-
<b>TOTAL PITCHES</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Public Transit Sites</b>		
None	-	-
<b>Private Transit Sites</b>		
None	-	-
<b>Private Travelling Showpeople Yards</b>		
None	-	-
<b>Tolerated Travelling Showpeople Yards</b>		
None	-	-
<b>Unauthorised Travelling Showpeople Yards</b>		
None	-	-

# Appendix B: Interview Log

Address	Type of tenure	Engagement attempts					Engagement techniques	Completed or refusal?	Reason for refusal?
		11/02/2020	19/02/2020	05/03/2020	06/03/2020	26/03/2020			
Aberkenfig 1	Private authorised site	11/02/2020	19/02/2020	05/03/2020	06/03/2020	26/03/2020	Email / Phone calls / Text message / Site visits / Engagement with Planning Agent	Refusal	Not at address when visited. Would not commit to an interview when telephoned.
Bricks & Mortar 1	Bricks and mortar	23/01/2020					Telephone	Completed	
Cefn Cribwr 1	Unauthorised	11/02/2020	19/02/2020	20/02/2020	05/03/2020	26/03/2020	Email / Phone call / Text message / Site visit / Engagement with Planning Agent	Refusal	Not at address when visited. No reason given. Would not commit to an interview.
Coity 1	Application Refused	24/01/2020	19/02/2020				Site visit / Phone call / Text message / Engagement with Planning Agent	Refusal	Site not developed. No reason given. Would not commit to an interview.
Coytrahe 1	Private authorised site	12/02/2020					Site visit	Completed	
Other LA Site	Meryth Traveller Site	17/01/2020					Telephone	Completed	
Pencoed 1	Private authorised site	24/01/2020	12/02/2020	21/02/2020	05/03/2020	06/03/2020	Site visits (Flyer and Letter left at premises)	No contact	Not at address when visited.
Pencoed 2	Private authorised site	24/01/2020	12/02/2020	21/02/2020	05/03/2020	06/03/2020	Site visits (Flyer and Letter left at premises)	No contact	No reason given. Would not commit to an interview.
Pencoed 3	Private authorised site	24/01/2020	12/02/2020	21/02/2020			Site Visit	Completed	
Pencoed 4	Application Refused	24/01/2020	19/02/2020				Site visit / Engagement with Planning Agent	No contact	Site not developed. No further contact details
Penybryn - Plot 2	Private authorised site	24/01/2020	12/02/2020	21/02/2020			Site Visit	Completed	
Porthcawl 1	Travelling Showpeople	05/03/2018					Telephone	Completed	

## Education Contacts

Address	Type of tenure	Engagement attempts					Engagement techniques	Completed or refusal?	Reason for refusal?
		20/01/2020	Jan-20	10/03/2020					
Bricks & Mortar 1	Bricks and Mortar	20/01/2020	Jan-20	10/03/2020			Flyer and/or Letter + open discussion with staff at local school	Completed	Same as Bricks and Mortar 1 and interview completed 23/01/2020
Bricks & Mortar 2	Bricks and Mortar	20/01/2020	Jan-20	10/03/2020			Flyer and/or Letter + open discussion with staff at local school	Refusal	Family Deregistered 02/20
Bricks & Mortar 3	Bricks and Mortar	20/01/2020	Jan-20	26/02/2020			Flyer and/or Letter + open discussion with staff at local school	Refusal	None Given
Bricks & Mortar 4	Bricks and Mortar	15/01/2020	Jan-20	26/02/2020			Flyer and/or Letter + open discussion with staff at local school	Refusal	None Given
Bricks & Mortar 5	Bricks and Mortar	15/01/2020	Jan-20	26/02/2020			Flyer and/or Letter + open discussion with staff at local school	Refusal	None Given
Bricks & Mortar 6	Bricks and Mortar	15/01/2020	Jan-20	26/02/2020			Flyer and/or Letter + open discussion with staff at local school	Refusal	None Given
Local Authority 1	Local Authority Site	14/01/2020	Jan-20	26/02/2020			Flyer and/or Letter + open discussion with staff at local school	Refusal	None Given
Local Authority 2	Local Authority Site	14/01/2020	Jan-20	26/02/2020			Flyer and/or Letter + open discussion with staff at local school	Refusal	None Given
Authorised Private 1	Authorised Private Site	16/01/2020	Jan-20	26/02/2020			Flyer and/or Letter + open discussion with staff at local school	Refusal	None Given
Authorised Private 2	Authorised Private Site	11/02/2020	Feb-20				Flyer and/or Letter + open discussion with staff at local school	Refusal	Family chose not to participate in GTAA. Accommodated on authorised private site.
Authorised Private 3	Authorised Private Site	11/02/2020	Feb-20				Flyer and/or Letter + open discussion with staff at local school	Refusal	Family chose not to participate in GTAA. Accommodated on authorised private site.

## Housing Contacts

Address	Type of tenure	Engagement attempts					Engagement techniques	Completed or refusal?	Reason for refusal?
		18/12/2019	11/03/2020						
Bricks & Mortar 1	Bricks and Mortar	18/12/2019	11/03/2020				Flyer and/or Letter	Refusal	Not given
Bricks & Mortar 2	Bricks and Mortar	18/12/2019	11/03/2020				Flyer and/or Letter	Refusal	Not given
Bricks & Mortar 3	Bricks and Mortar	18/12/2019	11/03/2020				Flyer and/or Letter	Refusal	Not given
Unauthorised Encampment 1	Unauthorised Encampment	18/12/2019	11/03/2020				Email	Refusal	Not given



## Appendix C: Publicity Distribution

Outlet	City / Town	Type
Jump Jam Trampoline Park	Bridgend	Attraction & Activity
Kenfig Reserve Centre	Pyle	Attraction & Activity
Miniature Railway	Aberkenfig	Attraction & Activity
Once upon a time	Bridgend	Attraction & Activity
Parc Slip Nature Reserve Cafe	Aberkenfig	Attraction & Activity
Wiggleys Fun Farm	Bridgend	Attraction & Activity
Civic Offices	Bridgend	Business & Office
Sadie & Franks	Bridgend	Food & Drink
Ton Nurseries	Bridgend	Garden Centre
22 Dental	Bridgend	Leisure & Health
Ashfield Surgery	Bridgend	Leisure & Health
Beynon Dental Surgery	Bridgend	Leisure & Health
Brackla Dental Surgery	Brackla	Leisure & Health
Bridgend Dental Surgery	Bridgend	Leisure & Health
Bridgend Golf Complex	Bridgend	Leisure & Health
Broadlands Dental Surgery	Bridgend	Leisure & Health
Court Road Dental Practice	Bridgend	Leisure & Health
DK Wills Dental Practice	Bridgend	Leisure & Health
Garw Valley Life Centre	Bridgend	Leisure & Health
Grove Golf Club	Bridgend	Leisure & Health
Halo Leisure Centre	Bridgend	Leisure & Health
Heathbridge House	Bridgend	Leisure & Health
Maesteg leisure centre	Pyle	Leisure & Health
Maesteg Swimming Pool	Maesteg	Leisure & Health
My Dentist	Bridgend	Leisure & Health
New Street Surgery	Bridgend	Leisure & Health
Newcastle Surgery	Bridgend	Leisure & Health
Oak Tree Surgery	Bridgend	Leisure & Health
Ogmore Valley Life Centre	Ogmore Vale	Leisure & Health
Park Street Dental	Bridgend	Leisure & Health
Pencoed Swimming Pool	Pencoed	Leisure & Health
Pyle Leisure Centre/Swimming Pool	Pyle	Leisure & Health
Riverdale House	Bridgend	Leisure & Health
Stormybrook Surgery	Bridgend	Leisure & Health
The New Surgery	Bridgend	Leisure & Health
The Orthodontic Centre	Bridgend	Leisure & Health
The Surgery Heol Fach	Bridgend	Leisure & Health
Tyncoed Surgery	Bridgend	Leisure & Health

Bridgend Library	Bridgend	Libraries & Education
Pyle Library	Pyle	Libraries & Education
Sarn Park Services	Bridgend	Motorway Service
Co-op Brackla	Brackla	Retail
Co-operative Food	Bridgend	Retail
Ewenny Garden Centre	Ewenny	Retail
McArthur Glen Tourist Info	Bridgend	Retail
Pyle Garden Centre	Pyle	Retail
Asda	Bridgend	Supermarkets
Co-op Pencoed	Pencoed	Supermarkets
Lidl	Bridgend	Supermarkets
Lidl	Bridgend	Supermarkets
Sainsburys	Bridgend	Supermarkets
Tesco	Bridgend	Supermarkets
Tesco Extra Bridgend	Bridgend	Supermarkets
Bridgend Train Station	Bridgend	Transport
Bridgend Town Council	Bridgend	Visitor Information

## Appendix D: Publicity Examples

### Do you or your family need a pitch in Bridgend County Borough?

We want to understand the true accommodation needs of Gypsy and Traveller families within the county borough so we can ensure we have the right number of pitches or sites available.

We'd like your feedback before March 2020 so we can not only meet our legal duty, but have a better understanding of how we can support you and your family.



Please take part in the survey to make sure we know about your needs.

Text: 07471 267095

Tel: 01792 535319  
Email: [Michael.Bayliss@ors.org.uk](mailto:Michael.Bayliss@ors.org.uk)  
[www.bridgend.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.bridgend.gov.uk/consultation)



TESCO 4G

90% 10:22

← Tweet

**Do you or your family need a pitch in Bridgend County Borough?**

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[www.bridgend.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.bridgend.gov.uk/consultation)



16:00 · 15 Jan 20 · TweetDeck



Tweet your reply



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**Tweet**



**Bridgend CB Council**

@BridgendCBC

We want to understand the true accommodation needs of Gypsy and Traveller families within the county borough so we can ensure we have the right number of pitches or sites available by completing our consultation here: [bit.ly/2r3Rzv7](https://bit.ly/2r3Rzv7)



Tweet your reply





Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr  
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> [Gypsy, Traveller and showpeople sites consultation](#)

## Gypsy, Traveller and showpeople sites consultation

You or someone you know may need a pitch or yard in Bridgend County Borough. As per the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, we need to discover how many pitches or sites are needed, and then provide them. Consequently, Opinion Research Services are speaking on our behalf to local Gypsy, Traveller and showpeople families. They are invited to participate in a survey to ensure their accommodation needs are known.

### Respond to the consultation

Contact Opinion Research Services through the details below. You will need to give:

- your full name
- the area where you live
- your phone number or email address

Then, Opinion Research Services will approach you for a conversation about your needs and share this information with us.

#### Contact:

##### Opinion Research Services

Email: [Michael.Bayliss@ors.org.uk](mailto:Michael.Bayliss@ors.org.uk)

Telephone: 01792 535319

Text relay: 07471 267095

#### Related links

[Equality and engagement home](#)

[Consultations](#)

[Current consultations](#)

[Closed consultations](#)

#### Documents

[Information leaflet - PDF 627Kb](#)



## Opinion Research Services



The Strand · Swansea · SA1 1AF | 01792 535300 | [info@ors.org.uk](mailto:info@ors.org.uk) | [www.ors.org.uk](http://www.ors.org.uk)

February 2020

Hello

### **Bridgend Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA)**

Opinion Research Services are currently completing a Traveller Survey for Bridgend County Borough Council.

We are trying to speak with all Travellers living in the Bridgend area.

A Council leaflet is attached with more information.

The survey is key to let the Council know how many new pitches may be needed in Bridgend.

A similar survey took place in 2015 and you might have spoken with us then.

We would like to speak to you to see if anyone in your family needs a pitch of their own now or in the future.

If you would like to take part, please call me on 07471 267095.

We can then let the Council know about your family's needs.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Michael



# Appendix E: Technical Note on Household Formation and Growth Rates