

**The Highland Council Gypsy/Traveller Accommodation Needs
Assessment 2009/2010**

CONTENTS		PAGE
1.	Background	1
2.	Methodology of Accommodation Needs Assessment	2-3
3.	Accommodation Options for Gypsy/Travellers	3-4
4.	Accommodation Needs of Caravan Dwelling Households	4-9
5.	Accommodation Needs of Bricks & Mortar Dwelling Households	9-11
6.	Managing Unauthorised Encampments	11-12
7.	Conclusion and recommendations	12
Appendix 1	The Highland Council return for the Scottish Government Twice Yearly Count no.15 (29 July 2009) Part D: Unauthorised Encampments	13
Appendix 2	Scottish Government Twice Yearly Count no.14 section 5: Unauthorised Encampments http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/03/30145009/7	14 - 21
Appendix 3	Map showing permanent site provision and the location of Unauthorised Encampments in Highland	22

1. Background

There are a number of Gypsy/Traveller families living throughout the Highlands. They form an element of Highland's rich heritage and culture. Public agencies in the Highlands recognise the importance of meeting their needs.

In terms of accommodation provision the Highland Council provides 40 permanent pitches across 3 sites located in Lochaber and Inverness. A further 7 pitches are available on a seasonal basis at Newtonmore.

The Highland Council and multi-agency partners recognise that unauthorised camping, or camping on land temporarily without seeking permission, has been part of the Gypsy/Travellers way of life for centuries. There is a separate policy and procedure in place for managing unauthorised camping which recognises and accepts that a travelling way of life is legitimate.

- 1.1 There has been significant upgrading to improve much of the Council's site accommodation provision over the period 2008/2009 and 2009/2010. This has involved investment from both the Scottish Government and The Highland Council.
- 1.2 This is one of a number of activities identified in the Highland Multi-Agency Action Plan which aims to improve the lives, opportunities and experiences of Gypsy/Travellers as well as their health, housing, education and employment outcomes. This Action Plan also aims to promote equality.
<http://www.highland.gov.uk/livinghere/housing/gypsytravellersinhighland/>
- 1.3 Highland Housing Strategy further promotes the Multi-Agency Action Plan for Gypsy / Travellers by committing to maintain existing accommodation services; improving the way that roadside encampments are managed and early planning to manage emerging needs.
- 1.4 This Accommodation Needs Assessment seeks to identify the current and any emergent Accommodation Needs of Gypsy/Travellers in Highland.

2. Methodology of Accommodation Needs Assessment

There is not as yet any specific guidance in Scotland for assessment of the specific accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers. For the purpose of this Accommodation Needs Assessment reference has been made to guidelines set out by the Department of Communities and Local Government 2007 - in particular :

- **Chapter 2** : Assessing the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers
- **Chapter 3** : Carrying out the Accommodation Needs Assessment

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/doc/accom-needs-assessments.doc>

- 2.1 The methodology used to identify the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers in Highland has focussed on a review of the following existing data sources:

- 1) The Highland Council return for the Scottish Government Twice Yearly Count no.15 (29 July 2009) Part D: Unauthorised Encampments – **Appendix 1**
- 2) The Highland Council Unauthorised encampment records
- 3) Scottish Government Twice Yearly Count no.14 section 5 - **Appendix 2**
- 4) The Highland Council Site management records
- 5) Data on site occupancy from the Highland Council Housing Information System
- 6) Highland Housing Register records
- 7) Highland Council Education records
- 8) Planning Applications submitted to The Highland Council

2.2 The Scottish Government's Twice Yearly Count – extract at **Appendix 2** is currently under review and subject to an Options Appraisal in connection with data quality, accuracy, consistency and data gaps.

In particular, the historical methodology of aggregating the number of households on sites with the number of households at encampments at a 'snapshot' date is widely considered unreliable as an estimate of population or households.

With this methodology there are problems of double counting households at encampments who have settled accommodation in other tenures. Equally, there are problems with the under reporting of encampments.

In addition, there are inherent limitations in that these estimates take no account of the number of households in social housing or other tenures. Nor is there currently an effective method to gather this data. Furthermore, when in settled accommodation Gypsy/Travellers may elect not to disclose their ethnic status.

It is however acknowledged that revisions to the Twice Yearly Count introduced in 2008 in Count no.14 have resulted in improved data collection on Unauthorised Encampments.

This indicates improved policy and management arrangements of Unauthorised Encampments across local authorities, with an improved understanding and awareness of the patterns, trends and knowledge of the Gypsy/Traveller population.

This Accommodation Needs Assessment provides a more detailed local assessment than that contained in section 5 of the published Twice Yearly Count no.14 attached at **Appendix 2**. This section relates specifically to Unauthorised Encampments and is nevertheless a useful context document about unauthorised encampments in Scotland.

In this assessment reference is particularly made to Highland Council's return on Unauthorised Encampments in respect of Twice Yearly Count no.15 unpublished at the time of this draft report).

For information The Twice Yearly Count no.14 records The Highland Council as managing more unauthorised encampments than any other local authority in Scotland. It also reports that Highland evidences a high proportion of site tenants (59%) who had been away travelling for permitted periods.

For the purpose of this Accommodation Needs Assessment the type of information gathered by staff undertaking visits to Unauthorised Encampments in 2009, and in relation to data collected from site records, was influenced by the guidelines in Chapter 2 and Chapter 3 of the Department of Communities and Local Government guidance on Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments.

3. Accommodation Options for Gypsy/Travellers

- 3.1 In general the accommodation options for Gypsy/Travellers are:
- Permanent pitch provision at local authority or RSL sites
 - Seasonal pitch provision at local authority or RSL sites
 - Social rented housing
 - Private rented housing
 - Temporary Encampments – either at a) authorised halting or stopping places on land owned by a public or private landowner or b) unauthorised encampments on land they do not own
 - Privately rented site pitch provision
 - Housing for Owner Occupation including land for self build options
- 3.2 In Highland there is no authorised halting or stopping places, nor RSL pitch provision. There is known to be limited use of privately rented permanent pitch provision by Irish Travellers. This is based on information obtained through management of Unauthorised Encampments early in the travelling calendar where households have set up encampments on arrival in Highland while awaiting the opening of private sites or Highland Council owned caravan parks.
- 3.3 The current accommodation options available in Highland are therefore:

Caravan Dwelling Households:

- Permanent pitch provision at 3 local authority sites
- Seasonal pitch provision at 1 local authority site
- Unauthorised Encampments

Bricks & Mortar Dwelling Households:

- Social Rented Housing
- Private rented Housing
- Housing for Owner Occupation including land for self build options

3.4 Permanent and seasonal site provision and the location of Unauthorised Encampments in Highland is shown at **Appendix 3**.

10% of Scotland's pitch provision is in Highland.

4. Accommodation Needs of Caravan Dwelling Households

The Communities and Local Government Guidance defines Caravan Dwelling Households as:

- 1) Households who have no authorised site anywhere on which to reside
- 2) Households whose existing accommodation is overcrowded or unsuitable, but who are unable to obtain larger or more suitable accommodation
- 3) Households containing suppressed households who are unable to set up separate family units and who are unable to access a place on an authorised site, or obtain or afford land to develop.

The Assessment for each group is detailed in the following section.

4.1 Caravan dwelling households who have no authorised site anywhere on which to reside

An assessment of Unauthorised Encampments in Highland over the period 2009 included gathering of information about whether households at encampments had settled accommodation in the form of a permanent residence or pitch elsewhere.

Appendix 1 details the 23 encampment locations which were used periodically for unauthorised encampments in Highland in the 6 month period to July 2009.

From monitoring data collected by staff managing unauthorised camping, 2 encampments were occupied by 5 households who had no permanent residence or pitch elsewhere.

These 5 households formed 2 separate extended families. Neither family wished permanent site provision and households were supported to make applications for social housing through Highland Housing Register. Support was also provided in connection with private rented housing options.

Both extended families were known to have a history of settled accommodation. One extended family has since achieved social housing outcomes, and the other has moved out of Highland.

Households at the other 21 encampments had settled accommodation.

There were no further unmet or emergent accommodation needs from caravan dwelling households with no authorised site anywhere on which to reside.

Of the 23 encampment locations, 21 had been occupied by Gypsy/Travellers known to originate from Highland of which 6 were settled out of Highland, in

Warwickshire, Argyll, Central Scotland, and Fife.

4.2 **Households whose existing accommodation is overcrowded or unsuitable, but who are unable to obtain larger or more suitable accommodation**

&

4.3 **Households containing suppressed households**

An assessment was made of the levels of overcrowding, and/or number of suppressed households or extended families occupying pitches at the 3 local authority owned permanent sites at the date of the Twice Yearly Count on 29 July 2009.

Staff were asked to record:

- how many pitches contained more than 1 household
- how many additional households were on each site
- whether any of these households had applied for social housing

The responses are shown in the Table below.

site	Total Number of pitches for rent	Number not available for occupancy	Number of pitches allocated	Number of additional/suppressed households	Housing application from main household	Housing Application from suppressed households
Inverness	19	3 (1)	16	5 (of which 3 are visiting only)(2)	no	no
Spean Bridge	14	7 (3)	14	1	no	n/a
Kentallen	7	2	5	1	no	n/a

Notes:

(1) 3 units held for major works, one used as decant accommodation.

(2) the 3 'visiting' households had settled accommodation elsewhere

(3) 7 units were undergoing investment while households were travelling or visiting. Permanent decant accommodation was declined as the investment work was being carried out during the traditional travelling season and this was the preferred arrangement.

Inverness

There were 5 additional households at the Longman site in Inverness, of which 3 had settled accommodation elsewhere and were visiting family.

There was unmet accommodation need of 2 households from this category, as 3 households had settled accommodation elsewhere.

It was anticipated and expected that this accommodation need would be met on completion of the upgrade work that was in progress on the Longman site to 2 of the pitches, at the time of this snapshot.

Spean Bridge

There was 1 x suppressed household reported at the Spean Bridge site currently living with parents on site.

This accommodation need was anticipated to be met based on turnover at the site as noted in section 4.7.

Kentallen

There was 1x suppressed household reported at the Kentallen site currently living with parents on site.

This accommodation need was anticipated to be met based on turnover at the site as noted in section 4.7.

4.4 Pitch demand per site 29 July 2009

As a snapshot at the time of the Twice Yearly count 29 July 2009 staff were asked to record:

- current pitch demand per site
- of which, how many are also seeking /applied for social rented housing
- of which, how many have a pitch or a house elsewhere

The responses are recorded in the Table below.

site	Current demand for pitch	of these, how many have an HHR application	of these, how many have pitch or house elsewhere
Inverness	3 (1)	none	none
Spean Bridge	2	-	1 (2)
Kentallen	3	1	2 (3)

Notes:

(1) 2 of these are households recorded in section 4.3. The other household had made an application while passing through and was known to be not currently in Highland.

(2) Settled in Fife

(3) Settled in Kinlochleven & Falkirk

Inverness

3 households were seeking a permanent pitch at the Longman site in Inverness of which 2 were already on the site informally as visitors and awaiting allocation of a pitch on completion of upgrading work as noted in section 4.3. The remaining household who had applied had done so speculatively while passing through and had made no recent contact and was not known to be in the area.

There is possible unmet accommodation need from the 1 household who had applied while en route to another area.

Void turnover data at section 4.7 evidences that this accommodation need could be met at the Inverness site based on annual turnover of pitches at the site for 2008/2009.

Spean Bridge

2 households had applied for a pitch at Spean Bridge, of which 1 household had a pitch in Fife, and the other was a suppressed household already living with parents on the site.

There is unmet accommodation need for 1 household currently living with parents on site.

Void turnover data at section 4.7 evidences that this accommodation need could be met at the Spean Bridge site based on annual turnover of pitches at the site for 2008/2009.

Kentallen

3 households had applied for a pitch at Kentallen, of which 2 were applying from settled accommodation, and 1 was a suppressed household already living with parents on the site.

Void turnover data at section 4.7 evidences that this accommodation need could be met at the Inverness site based on annual turnover of pitches at the site for 2008/2009.

4.5 Voids per site 29 July 2009

Staff were asked to detail the number of void units at the snapshot date of 29 July 2009. The Table below details the number of void pitches per site set against total provision and demand at the snapshot date.

Void Profile at 29 July 2009

site	Number of pitches	Number currently unallocated	Demand for a pitch (as 4.4)
Inverness	19	3 (1)	3
Spean Bridge	14	-	2
Kentallen	7	2 (3)	3
Newtonmore (seasonal site – summer only)	7	5	-

Notes: (1) capital works (2) new voids arising

Inverness

Of the 3 x demand for Inverness site, as noted in section 4.3, 2 can be offered permanent provision on completion of the upgrade work in progress at time of application.

The ability to meet the unmet accommodation need of the 1 remaining household who applied speculatively while passing through Highland can be assessed with relevance to the void turnover data at section 4.7.

Spean Bridge

Of the 2 x demand for Spean Bridge, 1 household has settled accommodation in Fife, while the other is already living on the site with parents and is recorded as a suppressed household at section 4.3.

The ability to meet the unmet accommodation need of the 1 x suppressed household can be assessed with relevance to the void turnover data at section 4.7.

Kentallen

Of the 3 x demand for Kentallen, 2 households have settled accommodation elsewhere, leaving an unmet accommodation need of 1 suppressed household which can be met by allocation of one of the 2 recent new voids.

Newtonmore

Of the seasonal provision in Newtonmore, 5 pitches were unallocated at 29 July 2009 with no demand or need recorded.

4.6 Households travelling per site on 29 July 2009

Staff were asked to record the number of households with a permanent pitch but who were off-site travelling at the snapshot date. The table below shows the responses.

Travelling from Permanent Sites at 29 July 2009

site	Number of pitches	Number currently unallocated	Number households travelling
Inverness	19	3	4
Spean Bridge	14	-	7
Kentallen	7	2	-

There were 11 households travelling who had a permanent pitch. Of these, 3 households from Spean Bridge were visiting family at the Inverness site because of the upgrading work as noted in section 4.3.

In consideration of the data at section 4.1 it is known that a number of the unauthorised encampments in Highland detailed in **Appendix 1** were occupied by households who had a permanent pitch or settled housing in Highland but who were travelling at the time of the snapshot.

The accommodation circumstances and needs of the households occupying encampments on the 29 July 2009 is detailed in section 4.1 with reference to **Appendix 1**.

4.7 Site void rate 2008/2009

The extract below shows the availability of pitches at each of the sites during 2008/2009. This information is relevant in terms of the assessment of unmet or emergent needs at the site locations based on the demand information for these sites as shown in section 4.3 and 4.4.

site	No of pitches available 2008/2009
Inverness	4
Spean Bridge	10
Kentallen	6
Newtonmore (seasonal site)	18

(source: extract First Housing System)

Inverness

Section 4.4 indicated the potential unmet accommodation need of 1 household who had made a speculative application for the Inverness site. The data in this table evidences that the turnover pattern at Inverness for the period 2008/2009 provided supply for a solution to this household.

Spean Bridge

Section 4.4 indicated the potential unmet accommodation need of 1 suppressed household for the Spean Bridge site. This data in this table evidences that the turnover at Spean Bridge for the period 2008/2009 provided accommodation options at this site for this and other households.

Kentallen

Section 4.4 indicated the potential unmet accommodation need of 1 suppressed household for the Kentallen site. The information in section 4.5 together with data in this table evidences that the turnover at Kentallen for the period 2008/2009 provided accommodation options at this site for this and other households.

5. Bricks and mortar dwelling households

The Communities and Local Government Guidance 2007 suggests an assessment of the accommodation needs of households living in a variety of tenures within bricks & mortar dwellings.

There are limitations of this approach in Scotland arising from the absence of monitoring data which identifies households by the ethnic status 'Gypsy/Traveller'. The legal status of Gypsy/Travellers in Scotland is still to be tested. Current legislation protects Gypsies and Irish Travellers as racial groups in England and Ireland.

Proposed changes to the census from 2012 may support improvements in this direction of ethnic monitoring in Scotland.

Nevertheless it is likely to remain difficult to identify Gypsies/Travellers in ordinary housing, as many do not want to make their ethnicity known and do not identify themselves to their local authority, other organisations or even other Gypsies/Travellers.

For the purpose of this Accommodation Needs Assessment the following data sources have been used to identify Gypsy/Traveller households:-

- Highland Council Education records – Interrupted Learning
- Highland Housing Register – known demand & partner organisation tenancy records
- Highland Council Planning Applications

5.1 Households in Social Rented Housing – Education Records

There were **13 Gypsy/Traveller families** across Highland accessing Interrupted Learning Services and living in settled social rented housing. The geographic

locations of this social rented housing were: Tain, Invergordon, Conan Bridge, Fort William, Skye, Inverness.

None were known to be seeking or in need of a transfer to alternative social housing.

5.2 **Households in Social Rented Housing – Highland Housing Register**

Based on staff local knowledge, **4 households** in Inverness had social housing tenancies, none of whom were looking to transfer house.

In Lochaber, staff reported local knowledge of **5 households** in social housing, 3 in Highland Council tenancies, and 2 in Lochaber Housing Association tenancies.

The Lochaber Housing Association tenancies were subsequently terminated as the households had moved into owner occupation. Of the households in Highland Council tenancies 1 was seeking a transfer to a smaller house in another area in Highland and was subsequently successful in downsizing to a 2 bedroom house. The other had not applied for a transfer.

In Lochaber 2 of the Spean Bridge pitch allocations during 2008/2009 had been to households moving from their historic social housing tenancies in favour of a permanent pitch.

Highland Housing Register partner organisations were also consulted on whether any of their staff had local knowledge of Gypsy/Traveller tenants. Informally there was reported to be tenancies held by Gypsy/Travellers in: Dingwall, Alness, Beauly, Strathpeffer.

Given the data imitations it is not possible to accurately estimate the numbers of households in settled social housing or the level of accommodation need.

In terms of an Accommodation Needs Assessment, the housing needs of social housing tenants and applicants in Highland are now collected and monitored through the Highland Housing Register.

Ethnic monitoring is reported annually and does not currently include Gypsy/Travellers as a separate ethnic group. It is anticipated that changes to census 2012 will impact on ethnic monitoring such that assessment of the Accommodation Needs of Gypsy/Travellers can be supported by data extracts from Highland Housing Register.

5.3 **Households in Private Rented Housing**

Education Records identified that **1 household** is living in private rented accommodation in a rural setting with no need or desire to move house.

5.4 **Households in housing for Owner Occupation including land for self build options**

Highland Council Planning Applications indicate there are 2 extended families identifying themselves as Gypsy/Travellers occupying land in their ownership acquired for the purpose of self build options.

Both families occupied social rented housing prior to meeting their own housing needs and there are no known current accommodation needs from these households.

6. **Conclusion and Recommendations**

6.1 **Caravan dwelling households**

There is no unmet or emergent need for permanent pitch provision which cannot be met by existing patterns of supply at the 3 permanent sites.

There is evidence that unauthorised camping tends to be an activity of households who are in settled accommodation, and as such is evidence of cultural expression rather than accommodation need.

Where there is accommodation need, there is evidence that Highland Council is managing unauthorised camping in such a way as to quickly and effectively identify and support access to suitable housing options for Gypsy/Traveller households.

The location, pattern and duration of Unauthorised Encampments (**Appendix 1**) does identify locations where there is opportunity for improved management of unauthorised camping by partner agencies, notably in Skye and Lochaber where encampments are recorded to exceed a timescale acceptable within the spirit of the Unauthorised Encampment policy & procedures.

The Highland Council and multi-agency partners are currently reviewing the policy and procedure for managing unauthorised camps in Highland and account will be taken of these indicators in delivering and developing services at these locations.

6.2 **Bricks & Mortar dwelling households**

Based on the limited data available there is no evidence to suggest that Gypsy/Travellers living in social rented, private rented or owner occupied housing do not have awareness of how to access housing options.

It is recognised that the limitations on ethnic monitoring and the possible reluctance of Gypsy/Travellers to self identify will continue to make accommodation needs assessments unreliable in the short to medium term.

Nevertheless it is hoped Highland Housing Register will be an effective tool in the future needs assessment and planning for Gypsy/Traveller accommodation options.

Appendix 1

The Highland Council Twice Yearly Count no.14 Return 29 July 2009

	Name	Location/Settlement	How many times has each place been occupied by Gypsies/Travellers during the past 6 months?		Occupied at the time of the count
			Number Times	Total Number of Caravans	Yes/No
Place 1	A96 & Barnchurch Rd	Inverness	1	6	Yes
Place 2	Whin Park	Inverness	4	20	Yes
Place 3	Stoney Field Retail Park	Inverness	4	27	Yes
Place 4	Car Park at BMX track	Inverness	2	7	No
Place 5	Slackbuie Avenue	Inverness	2	11	No
Place 6	Milton Of Culloden	Inverness	2	8	No
Place 7	Market Stance	Kingussie	2	9	No
Place 8	Milton Of Leys	Inverness	1	2	No
Place 9	Industrial Estate	Grantown On Spey	2	8	No
Place 10	Torvean Quarry	Inverness	1	4	No
Place 11	Culduthel Avenue	Inverness	1	6	No
Place 12	Rugby Pitches Car Park	Inverness	1	3	No
Place 13	Ski Centre	Aonach Mhor	0	0	No
Place 14	Brackletter	Spean Bridge	0	0	No
Place 15	Loch Side	Camasnagaul Ferry	0	0	No
Place 16	Annat	Corpach	All 6 months	4	Yes
Place 17	Inversanda Bay	Ardgour	1	5	Yes
Place 18	Glen Tarbet	Strontian	1	4	Yes
Place 19	Catalina Point	Alness	1	12	Yes
Place 20	Reraig Layby	by Kyle, Ross-shire	All 6 months	6	Yes
Place 21	Layby between Broadford & Corry Road End	Broadford, Isle of Skye	1	6	No
Place 22	Forestry Track near Broadford Cemetery	Broadford to Portree road, Isle of Skye	All 6 months	7	Yes
Place 23	Layby near Broadford Cemetery	Broadford to Portree Road, Isle o Skye	2	4	No

The Scottish Government

Gypsies/Travellers in Scotland: The Twice Yearly Count - No. 14: July 2008

5. Unauthorised Encampments

Background

5.1 Unauthorised encampments are set up on a typically short-term basis by Gypsies/Travellers when travelling through or visiting an area. They can also arise when families are having difficulty finding somewhere to settle, for example, on a Council/ RSL or private site. In many areas, such encampments are the only option available (where no available sites/pitches exist or where they are refused entry to private/holiday sites); for other Gypsies/Travellers they are the only option they will consider as part of their way of life.

5.2 Gypsies/Travellers based in Scotland and seasonal incomers from England, Ireland and Wales traditionally move around during the summer months. While unauthorised encampments tend to spring up more frequently in summer than in winter, there are areas of Scotland where unauthorised encampments are reported throughout the winter.

5.3 Locations used include wasteland, industrial sites, open space areas, lay-bys, car parks and more secluded spots away from settled populations such as loch shores, river banks, remote glens and grazing pastures. Some of these are long-established 'stopping places' used by Gypsies/Travellers for decades and traditionally recognised as such, although locations of this type seem to be increasingly a thing of the past. Families often follow an annual pattern of favoured locations, stopping periodically before moving on of their own accord or as a result of a court order being raised by the landowner.

5.4 As in the case of private sites, accurate data on unauthorised encampments is difficult to obtain and varies from authority to authority. For the purposes of the count, household estimates are based on a count of caravans on known sites within an area. Again, estimates of the number of households are based on the working assumption that one caravan is the equivalent of one household.

5.5 Encampments can be difficult to find and are not always known to the local authority officers, as Gypsies/Travellers often set up encampments in remote locations. Other agencies such as the Police are a valuable source of information on encampment activity.

5.6 This is the second Count in which councils were asked to conduct a count of the total number of vans sighted within the area in the six months leading up to the day of the Count. These changes were introduced because, increasingly in the case of Council/ RSL and private sites, the 'snapshot' nature of the Count meant it might not accurately represent the typical level of activity in a local area. It was understood that not all councils keep regular records on encampment activity, but it is hoped that by including it in the Counts, authorities will subsequently be encouraged to take up the practice.

Population and Encampment Activity

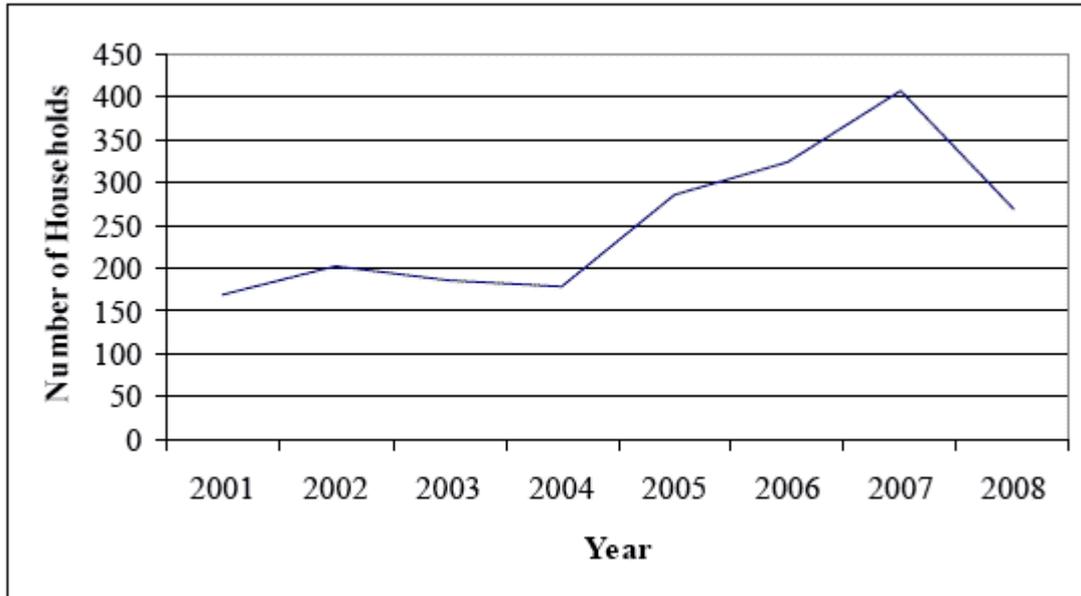
5.7 There were 48 sites occupied by Gypsies/Travellers on the day of the Count. As with previous Counts, longer stays of more than a week were most common; 63% of encampments had been occupied for more than a week. Of these locations, 17 were occupied for a one or two week period, and 13 were occupied for a longer period. In July 2007, 75% of encampments were occupied for more than a week.

5.8 In July 2008, there was an estimated 269 households living in unauthorised encampments, a decrease of 34% from the July 2007 Count (407 households) to the July 2008 Count. However, this represents an overall increase of 60% from the July 2001 Count (168 households). The July 2008 Count has nevertheless seen the lowest number of encampments since the July 2005 Count.

5.9 From 2001 through to 2004 the number of encampments was relatively stable, followed by a significant increase between 2004 and 2007, which was accounted for by the rise in the overall number of Gypsy/Traveller households in Scotland. The July 2008 Count has seen the first significant decrease in the number of encampments since 2004, and accordingly, a drop in the overall number of Gypsy/Traveller households.

5.10 The year on year trend in the number of households occupying unauthorised encampments from 2001 to the present count is shown in Figure 5.1.

Figure 5.1: Number of Households on Unauthorised Encampments (Summer) July 2001 to July 2008



5.11 On the day of the Count, 19 of Scotland's 32 local authorities reported encampments, and 26 reported periodic experience of encampments in their area during the last 6 months. A total of 188 locations were identified as being used by Gypsies/Travellers, though not all of these places were reported as being in use over the last 6 months. The number of locations reported has decreased by 11% from the 212 locations reported in the July 2007 Count. However, July 2007 saw significant increases compared to previous years. The number of locations reported had increased by 37% from 2006, and 49% from 2005.

5.12 No unauthorised encampment locations were recorded in Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, South Lanarkshire, Eilean Siar and Shetland. This is similar to previous Counts, where these areas have reported few or no unauthorised encampments.

5.13 Tracing patterns of travel among groups of Gypsies/Travellers is difficult to do with any certainty, as this has not always been recorded by local authorities and Gypsies/Travellers can themselves be unspecific on where they have come from. The majority of Gypsies/Travellers (62%) had travelled from within Scotland to the location they occupied on the day of the count, although it is not possible to say whether this is where they started travelling from at the beginning of the season. Half of the encampments reported in South West Scotland came from the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland.

5.14 For the first time, local authorities were asked to establish whether Gypsies/Travellers households occupying an encampment had moved on from another location within the same local authority. Ten locations were occupied by families who had moved from within the local area, the majority in the Highlands, Islands and Grampian region.

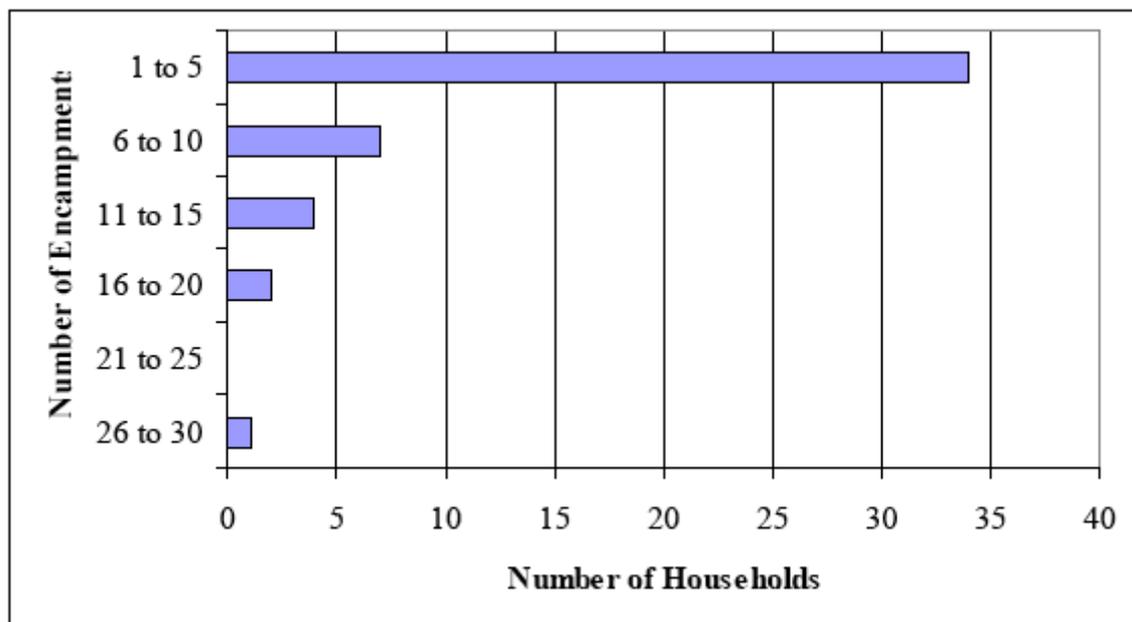
5.15 Table 5.1 demonstrates the average encampment size in Scotland for both encampments reported between the January 2008 and July 2008

Counts, and from July 2007 to July 2008 Counts, was 5.1 caravans. Averages varied at the local authority level, the largest average size of encampments over the last six months being noted in the Scottish Borders (16.3 caravans) followed by Clackmannanshire (13.7 caravans). Moray had the smallest encampments, with an average size of 1.8 caravans.

5.16 North Lanarkshire recorded the average largest encampment over the course of the year from July 2007, reporting an average encampment size of 13.5 caravans, with Moray again recording the smallest average (2.1 caravans). There was no data available for July 2007 to January 2008 for West Lothian (due to a period where no permanent Site Manager was on site). Other local authorities with a large average encampment size included Clackmannanshire (11.3 caravans) and East and Midlothian (8.3 caravans).

5.17 The size distribution of encampments is illustrated in Table 5.1. Further information on the characteristics of unauthorised encampments occupied on the day of the Count can be found in [Table 7 of the Appendix](#).

Figure 5.2: Size of Unauthorised Encampments July 2008



5.18 As methods for collecting encampment data can vary between local authorities the level of detail available on encampments is not standard. Some encampments can go unrecorded because the encampment is not reported or noticed. There are also cases, as happened in one Local Authority during this Count, where officers were not able to confirm a reported incident as actually involving Gypsies/Travellers because the caravans had left by the time they arrived.

5.19 Table 5.1 also demonstrates that local authorities were visited, on average, 11.3 times over the past six months. The frequency of visits ranged from 1 in Orkney to 53 visits in Highland. As well as Highland, the most visited

local authorities where Aberdeen City (41 visits), Moray (38 visits), and North Ayrshire and Fife (both reporting 31 visits).

5.20 Caution should be applied when examining these numbers in detail. As it is possible for a single Gypsy/Traveller group or household to visit more than one local authority in the course of 6 months, or even a day, the same household can easily be recorded several times. As the travel patterns noted above show, most encampments were set up by Gypsies/Travellers moving within Scotland, so double counting is almost inevitable.

5.21 The number of visits reported by local authorities stays fairly consistent over the course of a year. Table 5.1 shows that the Local Authorities receiving the highest number of visits are Highland (89 visits), Moray (69 visits), Aberdeen City (58 visits), Fife (56 visits) and North Ayrshire (52 visits). Moray was the only local authority to receive frequent visits that does not have an official site (due to closure).

5.22 More information on the usage of encampment locations over the last six months can be found in [Table 8 of the Appendix](#).

Table 5.1: Visits to Known Encampments Locations

LA	January 2008 to July 2008		July 2007 to July 2008	
	Number of visits	Average number of caravans	Number of visits	Average number of caravans
Aberdeen City	41	2.7	58	4.8
Aberdeenshire	6	5.5	11	6.2
Angus	17	5.7	21	5.7
Argyll & Bute	0	0.0	0	0.0
Clackmannanshire	3	13.7	7	11.3
Dumfries & Galloway	22	2.2	33	3.2
Dundee City	6	7.0	16	2.6
East/ Midlothian	8	6.8	30	8.3
East Ayrshire	7	3.3	8	3.1
East Dunbartonshire	0	0.0	0	0.0
East Renfrewshire	0	0.0	0	0.0

Eilean Siar	0	0.0	0	0.0
Edinburgh, City of	6	3.5	12	4.8
Falkirk	13	7.2	16	7.9
Fife	31	10.3	56	8.2
Glasgow City	3	5.0	3	0.0
Highland	53	3.5	89	2.7
Inverclyde	3	6.0	6	5.7
Moray	38	1.8	69	2.1
North Ayrshire	31	6.8	52	6.4
North Lanarkshire	6	11.0	15	13.5
Orkney	1	3.0	2	3.0
Perth And Kinross	10	5.4	26	3.6
Renfrewshire	13	2.6	18	3.2
Scottish Borders	3	16.3	3	0.0
Shetland	0	0.0	0	0.0
South Ayrshire	16	6.6	31	5.3
South Lanarkshire	0	0.0	4	2.3
Stirling	5	6.2	17	4.6
West Dunbartonshire	4	4.3	17	6.0
West Lothian	15	7.0	15	7.0
SCOTLAND	361	5.1	635	5.1

Note: Only known visits to West Lothian Council have been included in the table, although information could only be supplied from the period where the Site Manager post was filled.

5.23 [Table 7 in the appendix](#) shows that the Highlands recorded the largest number of households in encampments (39 caravans) on the day of the Count, closely followed by North Lanarkshire (38 caravans). High numbers of Gypsy/Traveller households were also recorded in Moray (21 caravans), Falkirk (19 caravans) and South Ayrshire (19 caravans). In July 2007 the authorities with the highest numbers were Fife (61 caravans) and Aberdeen (52 caravans).

5.24 Table 5.2 provides a detailed breakdown by local authority area of the estimated number of caravans occupying an unauthorised encampment recorded at July 2008, as well as on 3 previous counts.

Table 5.2: Number of Households on Unauthorised Encampments (Summer) July 2005 to July 2008

Local Authority	2005	2006	2007	2008
Aberdeen City	7	28	52	15
Aberdeenshire	10	7	16	12
Angus	15	0	5	5
Argyll & Bute	2	12	8	0
Clackmannanshire	0	0	0	0
Dumfries & Galloway	16	2	16	16
Dundee City	0	13	0	8
East Ayrshire	5	13	6	9
East Dunbartonshire	0	0	0	0
East/ Midlothian	10	6	21	5
East Renfrewshire	0	0	0	0
Edinburgh City	10	0	21	4
Eilean Siar	0	0	0	0
Falkirk	0	8	16	19
Fife	32	41	61	25
Glasgow	0	0	2	0
Highland	38	0	18	39
Inverclyde	0	5	3	0
Moray	30	43	35	21
North Ayrshire	28	18	40	0
North Lanarkshire	3	5	17	38
Orkney	0	0	0	0
Perth & Kinross	20	10	9	10
Renfrewshire	4	22	6	7

Scottish Borders	0	?	0	1
Shetland	0	0	0	0
South Ayrshire	6	6	29	19
South Lanarkshire	6	7	0	0
Stirling	38	0	0	2
West Dunbartonshire	0	0	5	0
West Lothian	5	79	21	14
SCOTLAND	285	325	407	269

Note: East Lothian and Midlothian Councils submit a joint return for the purposes of the Count. The encampment occupied at the time of the July 2008 Count were in Midlothian. Complete information could not be provided for the Scottish Borders in the July 2006 count, and this has been recorded as unknown.

