



**OXFORD CITY, SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE  
DISTRICT AND VALE OF WHITE HORSE  
DISTRICT COUNCILS**

**GYPSY, TRAVELLER AND TRAVELLING  
SHOWPEOPLE ACCOMMODATION NEEDS  
ASSESSMENT 2012/13:  
Executive Summary**



February 2013



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# Executive Summary

## The Study

1. Opinion Research Services (ORS) were commissioned by Oxford City, South Oxfordshire District and Vale of White Horse District Councils to undertake a Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment. The study provides an evidence base that complies with requirements towards Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople under the Housing Act 2004, the National Planning Policy Framework 2012 and Planning Policy for Traveller Sites 2012.
2. The main objective of this study was to provide the Council with robust, defensible and up to date evidence about the accommodation needs of Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople in the period until 2026 for Oxford City, 2027 for South Oxfordshire and 2029 for Vale of White Horse.

## Gypsy and Traveller Sites and Caravans in the Study Area

### Oxford City

3. Oxford City contains no Gypsy and Traveller sites and has seen only one caravan recorded during the caravan count in the past 5 years. Travelling Showpeople caravan counts indicate no Showperson caravans within Oxford City, but the survey for this study did identify one travelling Showperson household.

### South Oxfordshire District

4. South Oxfordshire District contains three public sites with a combined capacity of 37 pitches and one long-standing unauthorised private site.

### Vale of White Horse District

5. Vale of White Horse contains 2 authorised public sites with a capacity of 36 pitches and one private site which planning records indicate was designed to have 6 pitches with 12 caravans used for permanent residency and another 6 travelling caravans allowed. This site also has separate provision for up to 8 transit caravans.

## Survey of the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Population

6. Interviews were attempted with every Gypsy and Traveller household in the area who were present in November 2012. Throughout the survey period interviewers from ORS worked from 9am to 7pm each day and made repeated visits to each household until a successful interview was concluded. All interviews were achieved on Gypsy, Traveller or Travelling Showpeople occupied caravan sites, with 58 Gypsy and Traveller households and 12 Travelling Showpeople households interviewed.

7. 88% of respondents had lived on their current site for more than 5 years. The main factors which attracted respondents to the area were to be near to their family or they had always lived in the area.
8. There was a high level of satisfaction with current sites (94%), with almost 8 in 10 households being very satisfied. Only around 4% of respondents expressed some form of dissatisfaction.
9. The households showed a mixed range of ages across their members. 9% of household members were aged 60 years or over, but 44% of all household members were aged 16 years or under. 30% of all household members were of school age and another 14% were children aged 4 years or less.
10. 28% of respondents interviewed reported that their household contained at least one member with a long-term health problem. However, none of these respondents reported that adaptations were required in their home to meet the needs of the household members currently suffering with health problems.

## Future Requirements

11. Based upon the evidence presented in the main report, the estimated extra site provision that is required now and up until 2026 for Oxford City is no pitches, with 13 pitches required in South Oxfordshire until 2027 and 13 pitches in Vale of White Horse until 2029. This is almost entirely driven by growth in household numbers due to household formation.
12. The table below shows the requirement by local authority by type of pitch in 5 year intervals. These figures should be seen as the minimum amount of provision which is necessary to meet the statutory obligations towards identifiable needs of the population.

**Figure 1**  
**Extra Gypsy and Traveller Pitch Provision by Local Authority for the period 2012-2026/27/29**

Local Authority	2012-2017	2018-2022	2023-2026/27/29
Oxford City	0	0	0
South Oxfordshire	7	3	3
Vale of White Horse	3	4	6

## Transit Sites

13. 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 on the way to somewhere else. There is very little evidence of many households travelling through the area. Therefore this study concludes that there is no identified need for a transit site in any of the study authorities. However, we would also note that transit sites are an area where cross boundary working could prove to be particularly effective and that the transit needs of Gypsy and Travellers visiting Oxfordshire are an issue which should be considered at a more strategic level.

## Travelling Showperson Requirements

14. The household survey suggests that no further provision is required in Oxford City or Vale of White Horse to accommodate growth in the existing population. For South Oxfordshire to 2027, it is likely that a further 4 plots will be required to accommodate the growth in population.