

SDR 160/2013 (R)

13 December 2013

## Gypsy and traveller caravan count, July 2013 - Revised

This Statistical Release presents the most recent results of the bi-annual Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count conducted by local authorities in Wales. It sets out the number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans on authorised and unauthorised sites in Wales, and details of pitches on local authority sites, on 18 July 2013. The Count is carried out in January and July every year. It forms part of the evidence base when assessing bids from local authorities for the Gypsy and Traveller New Sites Grant and Gypsy and Traveller Refurbishment Grant.

Further background and quality information can be found at the end of this release. The counts are voluntary for local authorities and 21 responded in this count. Powys failed to do so. Note that totals in this document are for the 21 local authorities that responded, not for the whole of Wales. Note also that the number of caravans in Welsh local authorities is affected by seasonal fluctuation.

### Totals for the 21 local authorities that responded

- On 18 July 2013, 982 Gypsy and Traveller caravans were reported in Wales.
- 90 sites were reported across Wales. The number of caravans on a site ranged from 1 to 115.
- Across the 21 local authorities that participated in both the July 2012 and July 2013 count, the total number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans has increased by 19 per cent (154 caravans) and the total number of sites (both authorised and unauthorised) has increased by 7 per cent (6 sites).

### Authorised sites for the 21 local authorities that responded

- There were 778 caravans on authorised sites with planning permission, accounting for 79 per cent of all caravans. Of these, 557 (72 per cent) were on local authority sites and 221 (28 per cent) on private sites.
- For the 21 local authorities that participated in both the July 2012 and July 2013 count, the number of caravans on authorised sites has increased by 14 per cent (97 caravans) since the July 2012 count. This increase is largely due to the increase in caravans on local authority sites in Cardiff, Pembrokeshire, Flintshire and Merthyr Tydfil.

### Unauthorised sites for the 21 local authorities that responded

- There were 38 caravans on unauthorised sites on land owned by Gypsies and Travellers, accounting for 4 per cent of all caravans.
- A further 166 caravans (17 per cent of all caravans) were on unauthorised sites not owned by Gypsies and Travellers.
- Across the 21 local authorities that responded in both counts, the number of caravans on unauthorised sites was 39 per cent (57 caravans) more in the July 2013 count than in July 2012.

### Gypsy and Traveller Sites provided by Local Authorities for the 21 local authorities that responded

- There were 349 pitches on Gypsy and Traveller sites provided by local authorities in Wales on 18 July 2013.
- Of these, 348 were residential pitches and 1 was a transit pitch. 97 per cent of the residential pitches were occupied and the 1 transit pitch was also occupied.
- The total number of pitches has decreased by 6 per cent (21 pitches) for the 21 authorities that participated in both counts.

**Statistician:** Lucy Taylor

**Tel:** 029 2082 6023

**Email:** [stats.inclusion@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:stats.inclusion@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

**Next update:** March 2014 (provisional)

**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/statisticswales](http://www.twitter.com/statisticswales) | [www.twitter.com/ystadegaucymru](http://www.twitter.com/ystadegaucymru)

Cyhoeddwyd gan Y Gwasanaethau Gwybodaeth a Dadansoddi

Llywodraeth Cymru, Parc Cathays, Caerdydd, CF10 3NQ

Ffôn – Swyddfa'r Wasg **029 2089 8099**, Ymholiadau Cyhoeddus **029 2082 3332**

**[www.cymru.gov.uk/ystadegau](http://www.cymru.gov.uk/ystadegau)**

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Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ

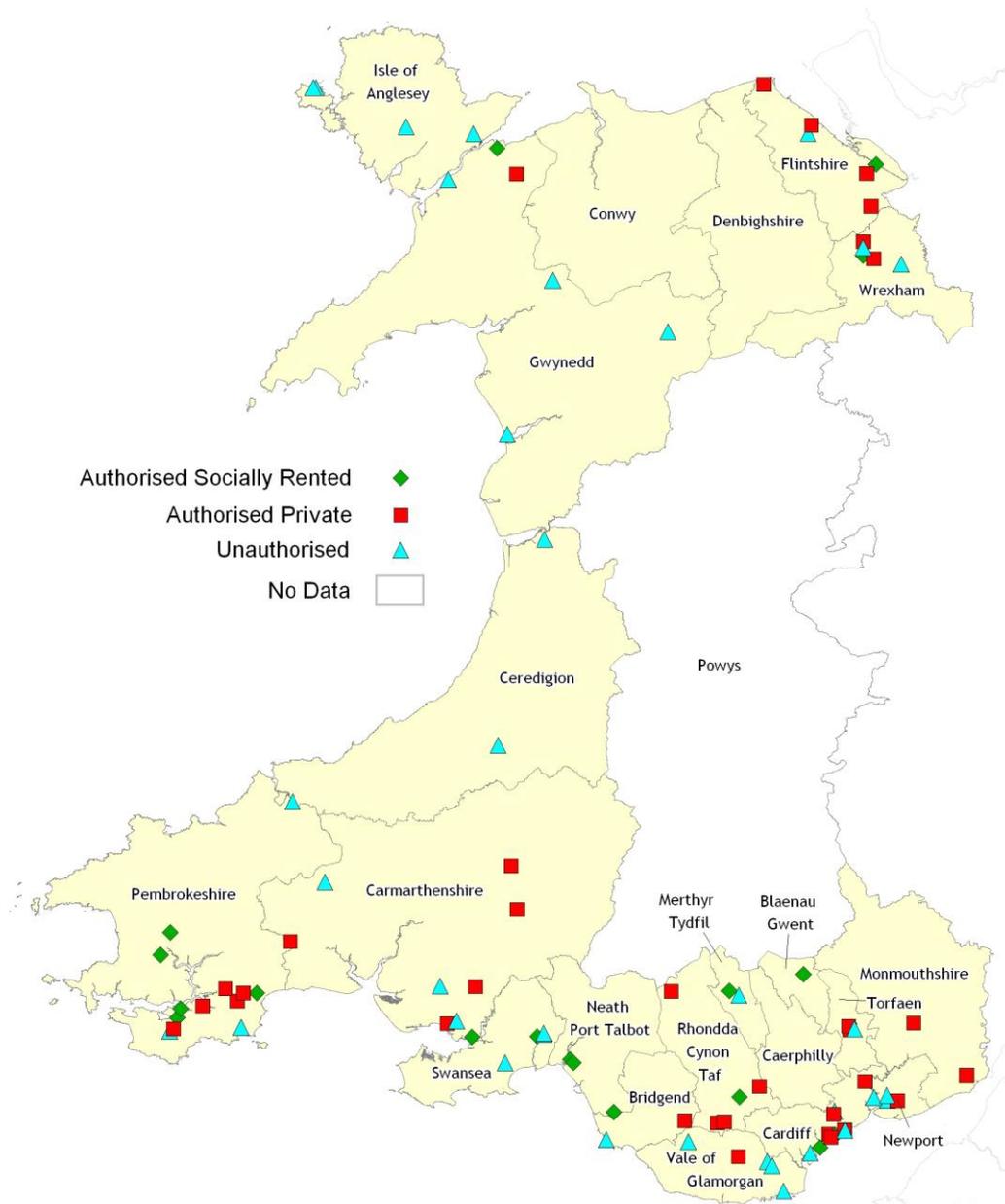
Telephone – Press Office **029 2089 8099**, Public Enquiries **029 2082 5050**

**[www.wales.gov.uk/statistics](http://www.wales.gov.uk/statistics)**



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# Map 1: Gypsy Sites in Wales on 18th July 2013



- Authorised Socially Rented ◆
- Authorised Private ■
- Unauthorised ▲
- No Data

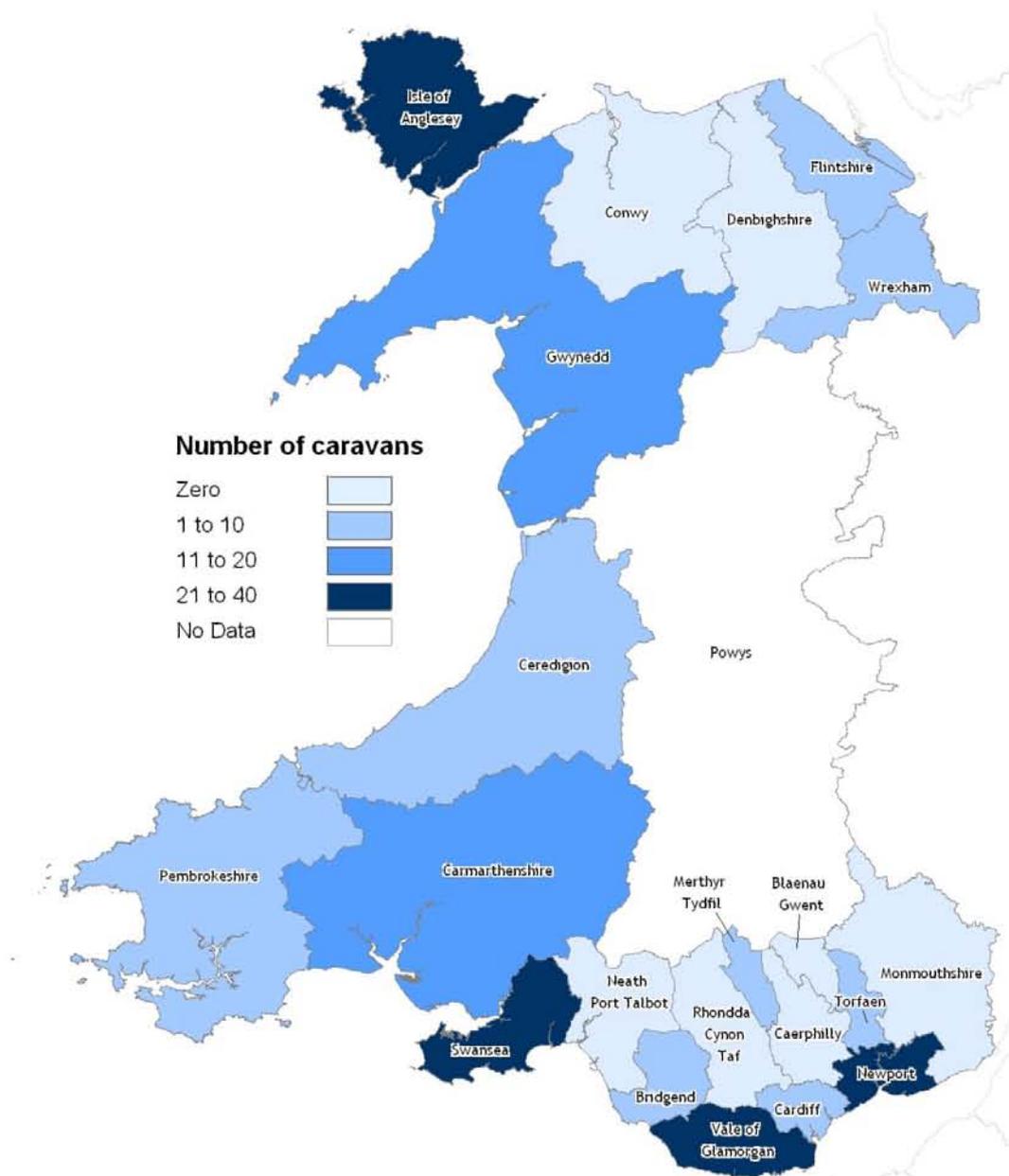


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Cartographics, SPF&P

**Map 2: Number of caravans on unauthorised sites  
on 18th July 2013**



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**Table 1. Count of Gypsy and Traveller caravans on 18 July 2013**

	Authorised sites (with planning permission)		Unauthorised sites (without planning permission)				All caravans
	Number of caravans		Number of caravans on sites on Gypsies own land		Number of caravans on sites on land not owned by Gypsies		
	Local Authority (a)	Private	Tolerated	Not tolerated	Tolerated	Not tolerated	
Isle of Anglesey	0	0	0	0	28	11	39
Gwynedd	7 (r)	3 (r)	0	0	0 (r)	12	22 (r)
Conwy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Denbighshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flintshire	26	47	0	0	0	2	75
Wrexham	24	5	0	2	0	4	35
Powys	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ceredigion	0	0	0	1	0	4	5
Pembrokeshire	130	12	0	1	3	0	146
Carmarthenshire	18	65	3	12	0	0	98
Swansea	15	0	0	0	15	12	42
Neath Port Talbot	78	0	0	0	0	0	78
Bridgend	0	4	0	0	0	4	8
Vale of Glamorgan	0	0	0	0	2	33	35
Cardiff	157	22	0	0	0	2	181
Rhondda Cynon Taf	7	23	0	0	0	0	30
Merthyr Tydfil	35	0	0	0	7	0	42
Caerphilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blaenau Gwent	22	0	0	0	0	0	22
Torfaen	38	16	7	0	0	0	61
Monmouthshire	0	4	0	0	0	0	4
Newport	0	20	0	12	21	6	59
Wales (b)	557 (r)	221 (r)	10	28	76 (r)	90	982 (r)

(a) Alternatively known as Socially Rented sites. Includes sites owned by Registered Social Landlords.

(r) Revised December 2013

.. Data item not available

**Table 2. Number of pitches on Gypsy and Traveller sites provided by local authorities in Wales on 18 July 2013**

	Number of pitches				Total number of all pitches
	Residential occupied	Residential vacant	Transit occupied	Transit vacant	
Isle of Anglesey	0	0	0	0	0
Gwynedd	7	0	0	0	7
Conwy	0	0	0	0	0
Denbighshire	0	0	0	0	0
Flintshire	20	0	0	0	20
Wrexham	12	3	0	0	15
Powys	..	..	..	..	..
Ceredigion	0	0	0	0	0
Pembrokeshire	70	1	0	0	71
Carmarthenshire	18	0	0	0	18
Swansea	7	0	0	0	7
Neath Port Talbot	52	2	0	0	54
Bridgend	0	0	0	0	0
Vale of Glamorgan	0	0	0	0	0
Cardiff	79	1	0	0	80
Rhondda Cynon Taf	7	0	0	0	7
Merthyr Tydfil	22	2	0	0	24
Caerphilly	0	0	0	0	0
Blaenau Gwent	20	0	0	0	20
Torfaen	23	2	1	0	26
Monmouthshire	0	0	0	0	0
Newport	0	0	0	0	0
Wales (a)	337	11	1	0	349

(r) Revised December 2013

.. Data item not available

**Table 3. Number of caravans on authorised and unauthorised sites reported in bi-annual Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Counts**

	Number of caravans							
	January 2012		July 2012		January 2013		July 2013	
	Authorised Sites	Unauthorised Sites	Authorised Sites	Unauthorised Sites	Authorised Sites	Unauthorised Sites	Authorised Sites	Unauthorised Sites
Isle of Anglesey	0	10	0	33	0	11	0	39
Gwynedd (a)	..	..	9	12	13 (r)	0 (r)	10 (r)	12 (r)
Conwy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Denbighshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flintshire	60	6	58	7	65	13	73	2
Wrexham	27	10	24	3	29	2	29	6
Powys (a)	27	2	29	38	32	10	..	..
Ceredigion	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	5
Pembrokeshire	108	6	123	4	143	2	142	4
Carmarthenshire	84	5	81	5	78	15	83	15
Swansea	18	11	10	12	18	11	15	27
Neath Port Talbot	80	0	76	0	81	0	78	0
Bridgend	4	0	4	0	4	0	4	4
Vale of Glamorgan	0	8	0	9	0	18	0	35
Cardiff	142	5	154	13	181	1	179	2
Rhondda Cynon Taf	21 (r)	2 (r)	21	0	21	0	30	0
Merthyr Tydfil	24	6	25	6	31	5	35	7
Caerphilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blaenau Gwent	19	0	19	0	18	0	22	0
Torfaen	53	7	53	6	54	6	54	7
Monmouthshire	3	0	3	0	4	0	4	0
Newport	21	24	21	37	24	24	20	39
Wales (b)	691 (r)	106 (r)	710	185	796 (r)	118 (r)	778 (r)	204 (r)

(a) Authority did not take part in all 4 of the most recent counts

(b) Wales figures only refer to the local authorities that responded in each count

.. Data item not available

(r) Revised December 2013

**Table 4. Number of authorised and unauthorised sites reported in bi-annual Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Counts**

	January 2012		July 2012		January 2013		Number of sites July 2013	
	Authorised Sites	Unauthorised Sites	Authorised Sites	Unauthorised Sites	Authorised Sites	Unauthorised Sites	Authorised Sites	Unauthorised Sites
Isle of Anglesey	0	2	0	6	0	1	0	4
Gwynedd (a)	..	..	2	4	2 (r)	3 (r)	2 (r)	4 (r)
Conwy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Denbighshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flintshire	4	2	4	2	4	2	5	1
Wrexham	3	2	3	2	3	1	3	2
Powys (a)	4	1	4	3	4	3	..	..
Ceredigion	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
Pembrokeshire	9	3	9	2	9	2	10	2
Carmarthenshire	6	2	6	2	6	3	6	3
Swansea	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	3
Neath Port Talbot	3	0	2	0	3	0	3	0
Bridgend	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1
Vale of Glamorgan	0	2	0	2	1	3	1	4
Cardiff	3	1	5	4	6	1	6	1
Rhondda Cynon Taf	4 (r)	1 (r)	4	0	4	0	5	0
Merthyr Tydfil	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Caerphilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blaenau Gwent	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
Torfaen	3	1	3	1	3	1	3	1
Monmouthshire	2	0	2	0	2	0	2	0
Newport	5	5	6	6	6	4	5	5
Wales (b)	50 (r)	26 (r)	54	37	57 (r)	27 (r)	55 (r)	35 (r)

(a) Authority did not take part in all 4 of the most recent counts

(b) Wales figures only refer to the local authorities that responded in each count

.. Data item not available

(r) Revised December 2013

## Key Quality Information

This section provides a summary of information on this output against six dimensions of quality: Relevance, Accuracy, Timeliness and Punctuality, Accessibility and Clarity, Coherence, and Comparability. Note that the information collected as part of the count is not currently branded as National Statistics

### Relevance

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

The commencement of section 225 of the Housing Act 2004 in December 2007 also requires local authorities to carry out an assessment of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers as part of the review of housing needs in their area.

The Welsh Government has made available grant funding worth £1.75 million in 2012/13 so that local authorities can set up new Gypsy and Traveller sites in Wales.

Since January 2011, the counts have been conducted by the data collection team within the Welsh Government's Statistical Directorate. Previous data collections had been conducted by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

### Accuracy

The response and quality of the count can be affected by the following factors:

- local authorities not completing their returns;
- inadequate counting practices;
- geography – particularly in large rural areas which require correspondingly large resources to map all sites;
- Gypsy and Traveller mistrust; and
- the counts are voluntary, with no rewards to local authorities completing their returns or penalties for those that fail to do so.

Of the 22 local authorities in Wales, 21 completed their July 2013 returns.

### Revisions

Due to a reporting error selected data was revised on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2013. Where data has been revised it will be clearly marked with an (r).

We follow the Welsh Government's statistical revisions policy, details of which are available at: <http://wales.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/about/statement-of-compliance/revisions-errors-postponements/?lang=en>

### Timeliness and Punctuality

The count is carried out on a specified date in January and July each year, giving a snapshot of the number and location of caravans on the specific date. The data is published as soon as data collation and checking allows.

## Accessibility and Clarity

This statistical first release is pre-announced and then published in the Statistics section of the Welsh Government website. It is accompanied by more detailed tables on StatsWales, a free to use service that allows visitors to view, manipulate, create and download data.

## Comparability and Coherence

Meaningful comparisons of total figures for Wales over time are limited by local authorities who do not take part in the count. It is therefore advised that comparisons over time should only be made for local authorities that have taken part in all relevant counts.

Data for the Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count is subject to seasonality. To compare figures over time it is advised to look at the winter and summer counts each year separately.

Equivalent information for England is available via the [Department for Communities and Local Government \(DCLG\) website](#). The date for collection is arranged with the Department for Communities and Local Government and, where possible, is the same for England and Wales.

## Glossary

### Caravans

A 'caravan' can include any of the following:

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

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

### Gypsies and Travellers

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

### Privately funded sites

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

- sites with planning permission owned by Gypsies and Travellers for their own and/or their family's occupation and/or for commercial letting;
- sites owned by any other private individual or body with planning permission for use as a Gypsy or Traveller site;
- sites owned by a local authority but leased to, or managed by, a non-local authority body or individual under arrangements which do not give the local authority control of site management (critically of rent setting and lettings).

'With planning permission' may be interpreted to include sites without 'planning permission' as such, but with established use rights or other planning status which means that planning enforcement action cannot be taken.

### Local Authority sites

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

### **Unauthorised sites on Gypsies or Travellers own land**

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

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

A 'not tolerated' site is one where:

- a planning enforcement notice has been served (including Temporary Stop Notices);
- the results of a planning enquiry are pending;
- an injunction has been sought;
- or where the compliance period has been extended.

### **On land not owned by Gypsies or Travellers**

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

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

A 'not tolerated' encampment is one where: the local authority or police are using, or are preparing to use, their powers under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 to remove the encampment, or where the landowner (including the local authority) has instigated, or is preparing to instigate, action either through the courts or under common law rights to regain possession of the land.