

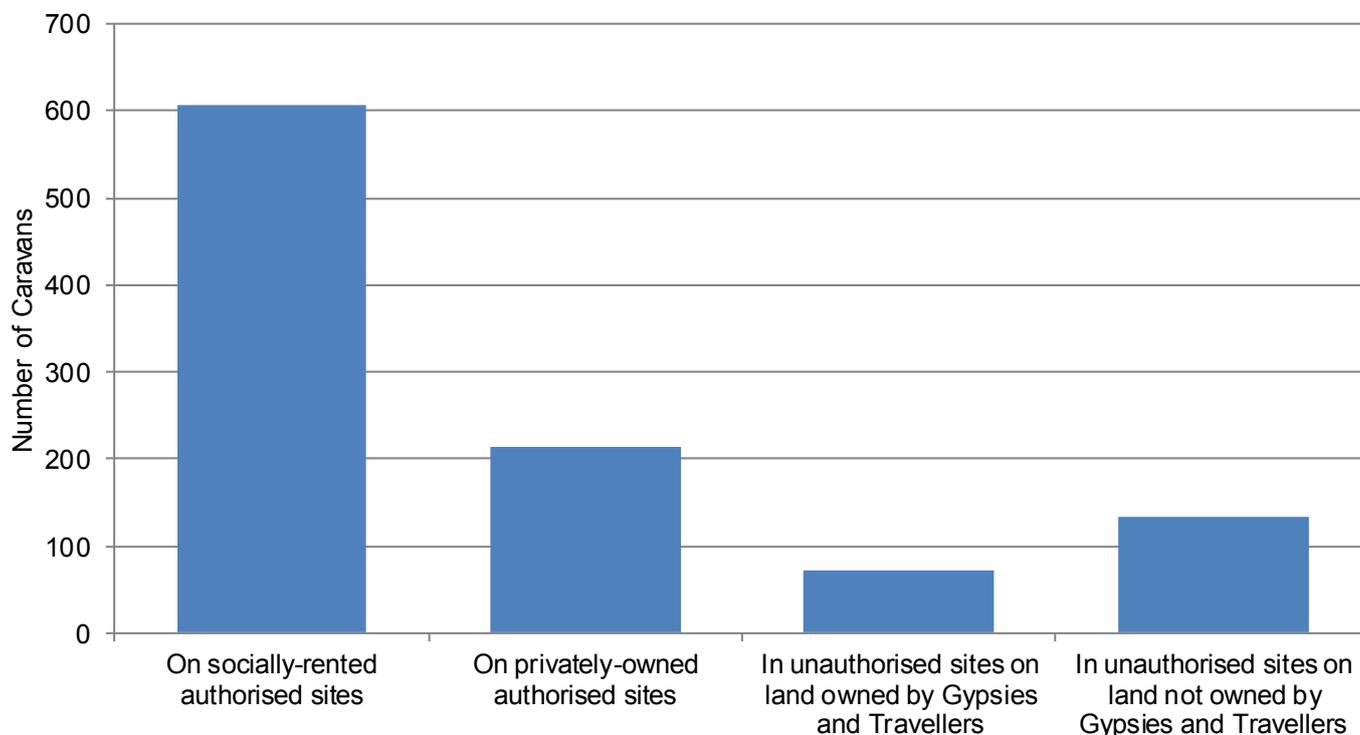
## Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count, July 2015

This Statistical Release presents the most recent results of the bi-annual Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count conducted by Local Authorities in Wales. It presents the number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans on authorised and unauthorised sites in Wales, and the status of pitches on Local Authority sites for July 2015. The Gypsy and Traveller caravan counts are voluntary and are carried out in January and July every year. See the Key Quality Information section for further background and quality information. More detailed tables are provided on [StatsWales](#). Terms which have a special meaning are explained in the [glossary](#).

### Key results

- On the 16 July 2015 there were 1,029 Gypsy and Traveller caravans and 102 sites reported in Wales.
- Across the 22 Local Authorities that participated in both the July 2014 and July 2015 count, the total number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans has increased by 0.4 per cent (4 caravans) and the total number of sites (both authorised and unauthorised) has increased by 3 per cent (3 sites).
- Of the total number of caravans, 80 per cent (824 caravans) were on authorised sites. Of these, 609 (74 per cent) were on Local Authority sites and 215 (26 per cent) were on private sites.
- There were 474 pitches on Gypsy and Traveller sites provided by Local Authorities. Of these, 373 were residential pitches and 101 were transit pitches. 98 per cent of the residential pitches were occupied, and 37 of the 101 transit pitches were occupied.
- The total number of caravans on unauthorised sites was 11 per cent (21 caravans) higher in the July 2015 count compared to the July 2014 count.

**Figure 1: Number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2015, by type of site**



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**Next update:** March 2016 (provisional)

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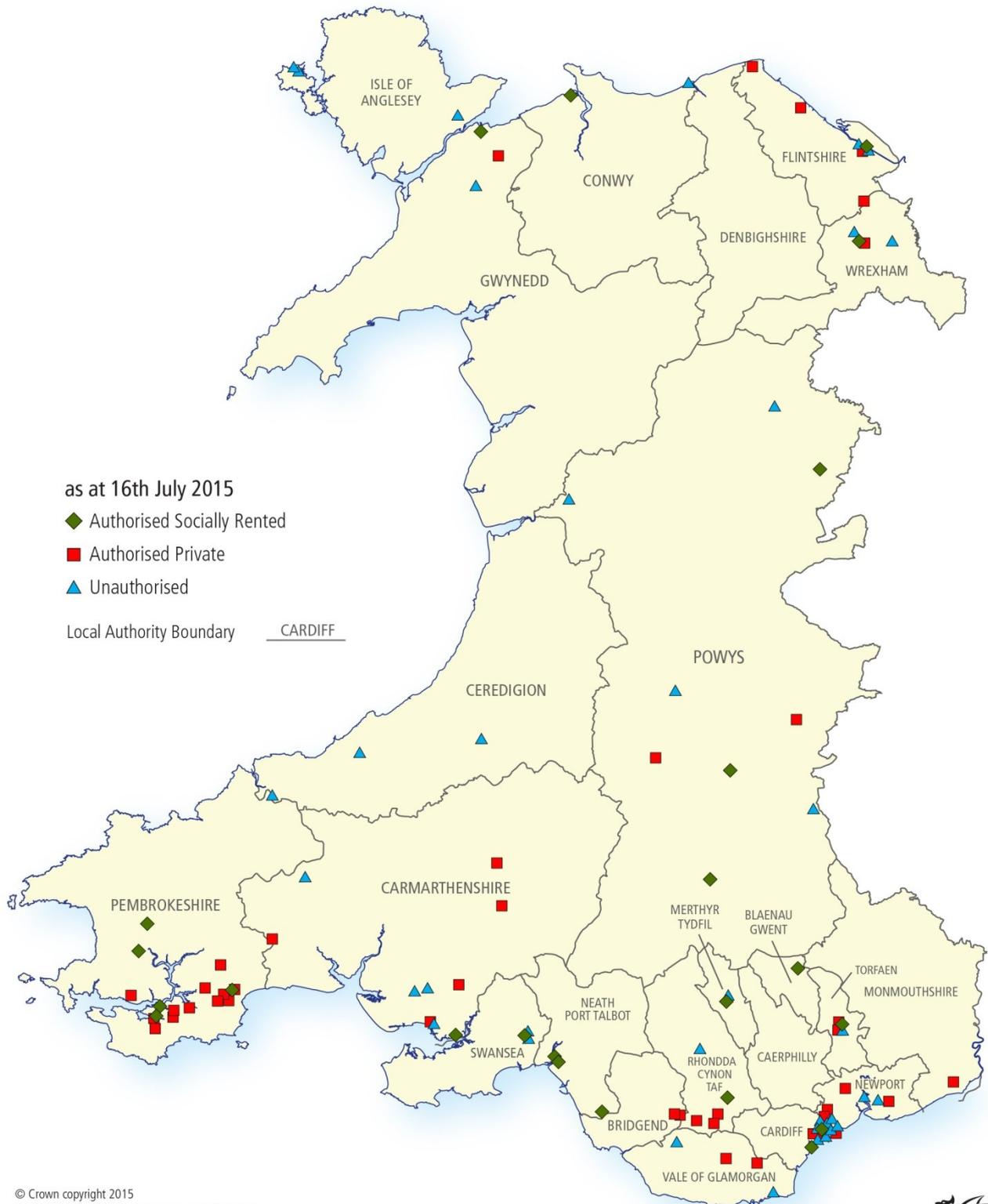
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# Map 1: Gypsy and Traveller Sites in Wales on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2015



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**Table 1: Number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

	Number of Caravans							All caravans
	Authorised sites (with planning permission)			Unauthorised sites (without planning permission)				
	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 <sup>1</sup>	Private	Tolerated	Not tolerated	Tolerated	Not tolerated		
Isle of Anglesey	0	0	0	0	32	0	32	
Gwynedd	10	3	0	0	0	1	14	
Conwy	2	0	0	0	0	2	4	
Denbighshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Flintshire	37	44	4	0	0	2	87	
Wrexham	31	2	0	4	0	6	43	
Powys	66	4	0	3	5	0	78	
Ceredigion	0	0	0	5	0	1	6	
Pembrokeshire	116	27	0	0	0	0	143	
Carmarthenshire	14	55	3	17	0	0	89	
Swansea	14	0	0	0	13	3	30	
Neath Port Talbot	85	0	0	0	0	0	85	
Bridgend	0	6	0	0	0	0	6	
Vale of Glamorgan	0	1	0	0	20	0	21	
Cardiff	130	7	0	25	0	7	169	
Rhondda Cynon Taf	7	18	0	0	0	10	35	
Merthyr Tydfil	42	0	0	0	11	0	53	
Caerphilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Blaenau Gwent	20	0	0	0	0	0	20	
Torfaen	35	19	4	0	0	0	58	
Monmouthshire	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Newport	0	28	3	4	18	2	55	
<b>Wales</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>1,029</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Alternatively known as Socially Rented Sites. Includes sites owned by Registered Social Landlords

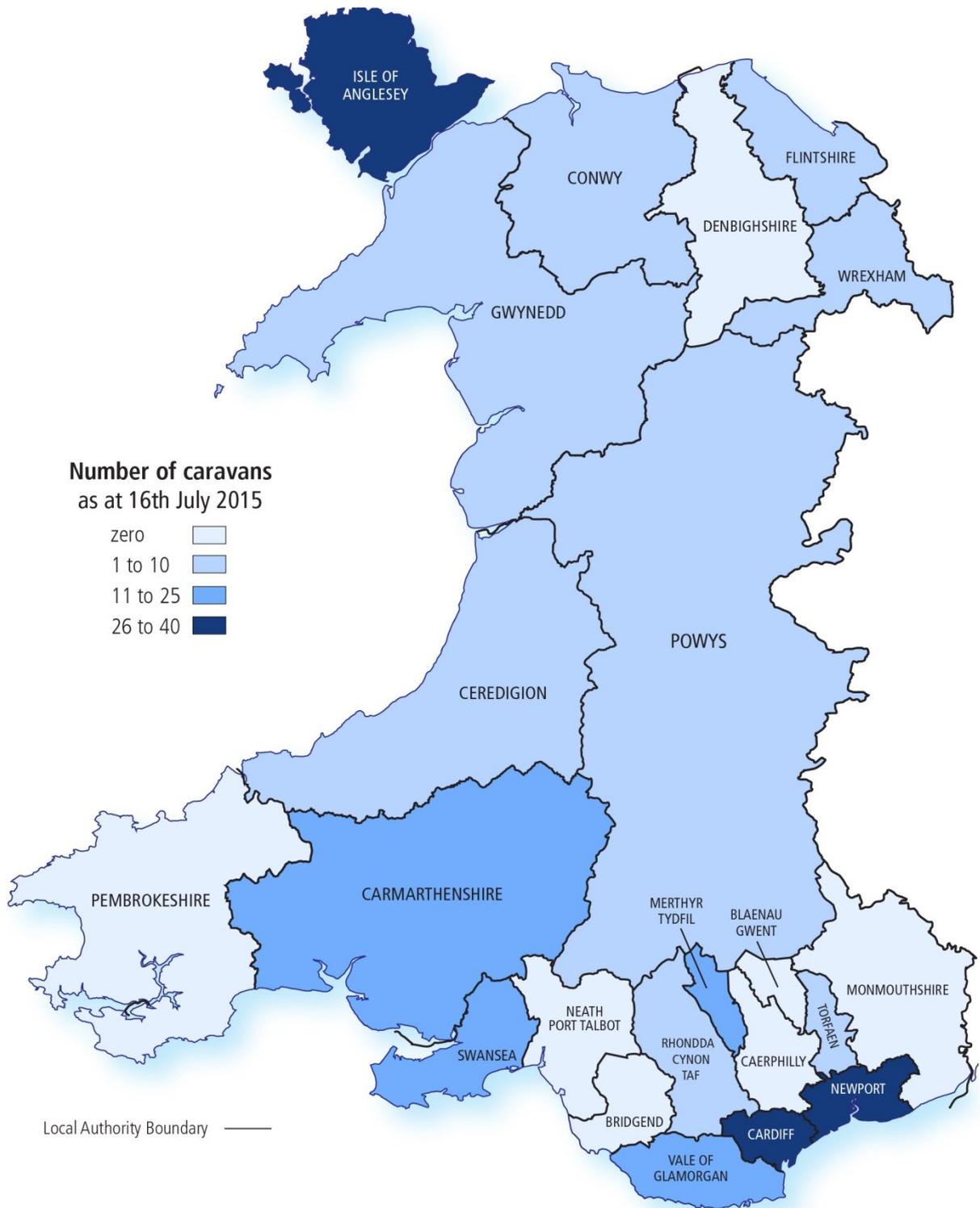
At the time of the July 2015 count, the total number of caravans in Wales was 1,029. There were 824 caravans on authorised sites with planning permission, accounting for 80 per cent of all caravans. Of these, 609 (74 per cent) were on socially-rented sites and 215 (26 per cent) were on privately-funded sites.

There were 72 caravans on unauthorised sites on land owned by Gypsies and Travellers, accounting for 7 per cent of all caravans. A further 133 caravans (13 per cent of all caravans) were on unauthorised sites not owned by Gypsies and Travellers.

From Table 1, it can be seen that Cardiff and Pembrokeshire had the highest total number of caravans; combined these accounted for over 30 per cent of all caravans. Denbighshire and Caerphilly reported having no caravans in the July 2015 count.

In some cases, caravans are on sites which are unauthorised but the Local Authority has decided not to seek removal of the encampment. These are shown in Table 1 as unauthorised sites which are 'tolerated'. 92 caravans were on unauthorised sites that were 'not tolerated'; the largest numbers of these were seen in Cardiff and Carmarthenshire (on sites owned by Gypsies and Travellers) where there were 25 and 17 caravans respectively.

**Map 2: Number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans on unauthorised sites, 16<sup>th</sup> July 2015**



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**Table 2: Number of pitches<sup>1</sup> on Gypsy and Traveller sites provided by Local Authorities<sup>2</sup> in Wales on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

	Number of pitches				
	Residential occupied	Residential vacant	Transit occupied	Transit vacant	Total
Isle of Anglesey	0	0	0	0	0
Gwynedd	8	0	0	0	8
Conwy	2	0	0	0	2
Denbighshire	0	0	0	0	0
Flintshire	20	0	0	0	20
Wrexham	14	1	0	0	15
Powys	20	0	37	63	120
Ceredigion	0	0	0	0	0
Pembrokeshire	74	1	0	0	75
Carmarthenshire	14	0	0	0	14
Swansea	7	0	0	0	7
Neath Port Talbot	56	0	0	0	56
Bridgend	0	0	0	0	0
Vale of Glamorgan	0	0	0	0	0
Cardiff	80	0	0	0	80
Rhondda Cynon Taf	7	0	0	0	7
Merthyr Tydfil	24	0	0	0	24
Caerphilly	0	0	0	0	0
Blaenau Gwent	20	0	0	0	20
Torfaen	20	5	0	1	26
Monmouthshire	0	0	0	0	0
Newport	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Wales</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>474</b>

<sup>1</sup> One pitch may accommodate multiple caravans

<sup>2</sup> Does not include Authorised Private Sites

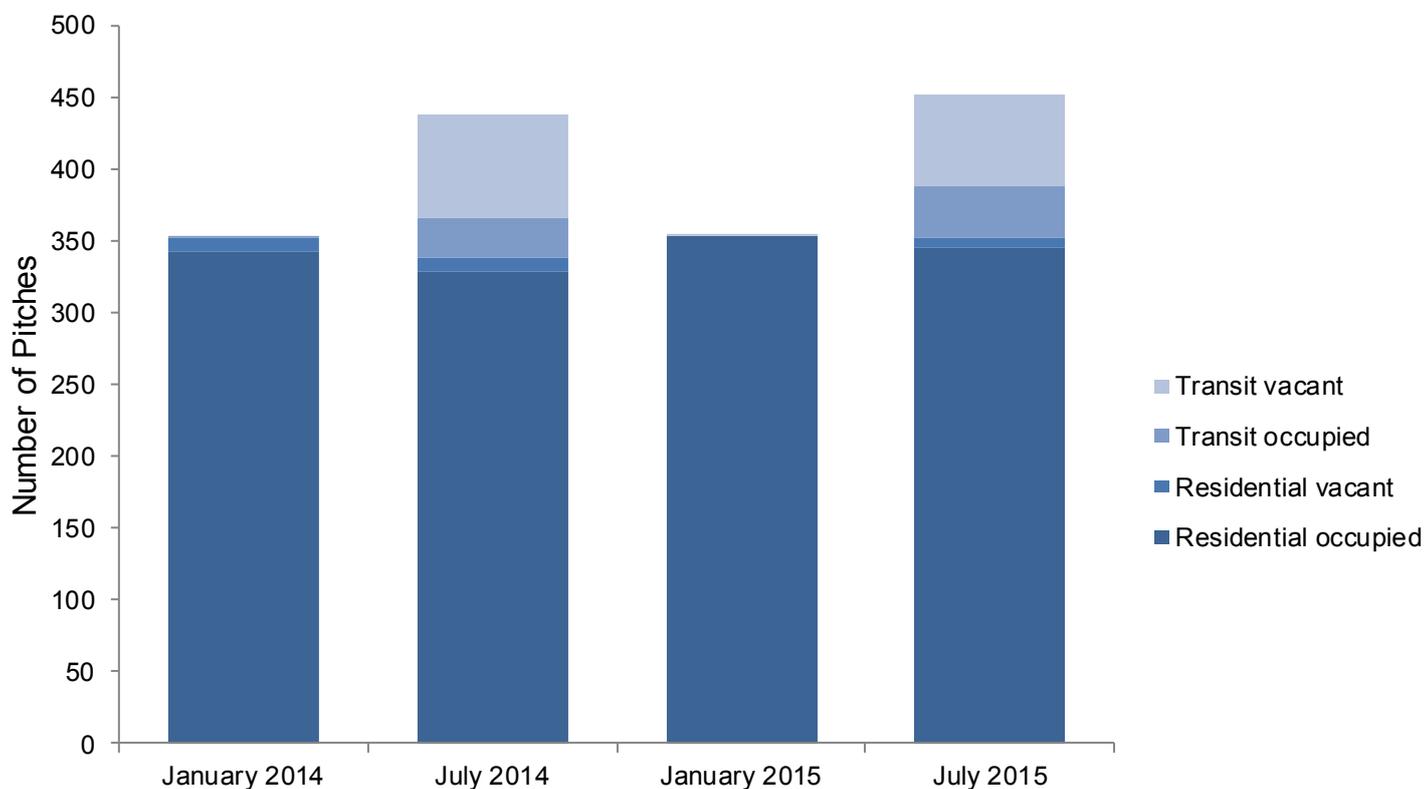
There were 474 pitches on Gypsy and Traveller sites provided by Local Authorities in Wales on 16 July 2015. Of these, 373 were residential pitches and 101 were transit pitches. The number of transit pitches has increased notably since the January 2015 count. This is due to the seasonality of pitches as, during this summer count, Powys had provided temporary stopping sites for Gypsies and Travellers attending the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show. This is in contrast to the January 2015 count where these transit pitches were not available.

Powys, Cardiff and Pembrokeshire had the highest number of pitches provided by Local Authorities (120, 80 and 75 pitches respectively) accounting for over half of the total number of pitches (58 per cent). There were 8 Local Authorities that reported having no pitches on 16 July 2015.

At the time of the count, 98 per cent of the residential pitches were occupied; this is the same percentage as last year's count. 37 out of the 101 transit pitches were also occupied (37 per cent). This is a higher percentage than the July 2014 count, where only 29 out of the 101 (29 per cent) transit pitches were occupied.

The total number of pitches has increased by 1 per cent (4 pitches) between the July 2014 and July 2015 counts. The proportions of pitches that were transit vacant, transit occupied, residential vacant and residential occupied over the last four counts can be seen in Figure 2. Again, the seasonality influences the number of transit pitches available.

**Figure 2: Number of pitches on Gypsy and Traveller sites provided by Local Authorities by transit/residential status, Wales – January 2014 to July 2015**



<sup>1</sup> Based on the 20 Local Authorities which responded to all four counts. Data from Flintshire and Monmouthshire is not included to allow for a more accurate comparison.

**Table 3: Number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans by site authorisation, 2014 to 2015**

	Number of caravans							
	January 2014 <sup>1</sup>		July 2014		January 2015		July 2015	
	Authorised Sites	Unauthorised Sites	Authorised Sites	Unauthorised Sites	Authorised Sites	Unauthorised Sites	Authorised Sites	Unauthorised Sites
Isle of Anglesey	0	12	0	32	0	14	0	32
Gwynedd	10	0	10	3	13	0	13	1
Conwy	0	0	0	5	0	3	2	2
Denbighshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flintshire	..	..	98	0	86	2	81	6
Wrexham	22	2	37	2	42	3	33	10
Powys	29	7	61	7	32	7	70	8
Ceredigion	0	4	0	6	0	4	0	6
Pembrokeshire	140	2	151	1	156	1	143	0
Carmarthenshire	80	17	74	16	72	21	69	20
Swansea	14	16	15	19	15	16	14	16
Neath Port Talbot	88	0	86	0	89	0	85	0
Bridgend	4	0	4	0	6	0	6	0
Vale of Glamorgan	0	20	0	19	3	20	1	20
Cardiff	158	29	131	35	146	31	137	32
Rhondda Cynon Taf	30	0	30	0	26	4	25	10
Merthyr Tydfil	42	7	37	7	42	8	42	11
Caerphilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blaenau Gwent	25	0	20	0	20	0	20	0
Torfaen	53	6	53	5	65	5	54	4
Monmouthshire	..	..	4	0	1	0	1	0
Newport	31	33	30	27	31	36	28	27
<b>Wales</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>841</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>824</b>	<b>205</b>
Comparable Total <sup>2</sup>	726	155	739	184	758	173	742	199

<sup>1</sup> Wales figures based on data provided by 20 Local Authorities

<sup>2</sup> Based on the 20 Local Authorities which responded to all four counts. Data from Flintshire and Monmouthshire is not included to allow for a more accurate comparison.

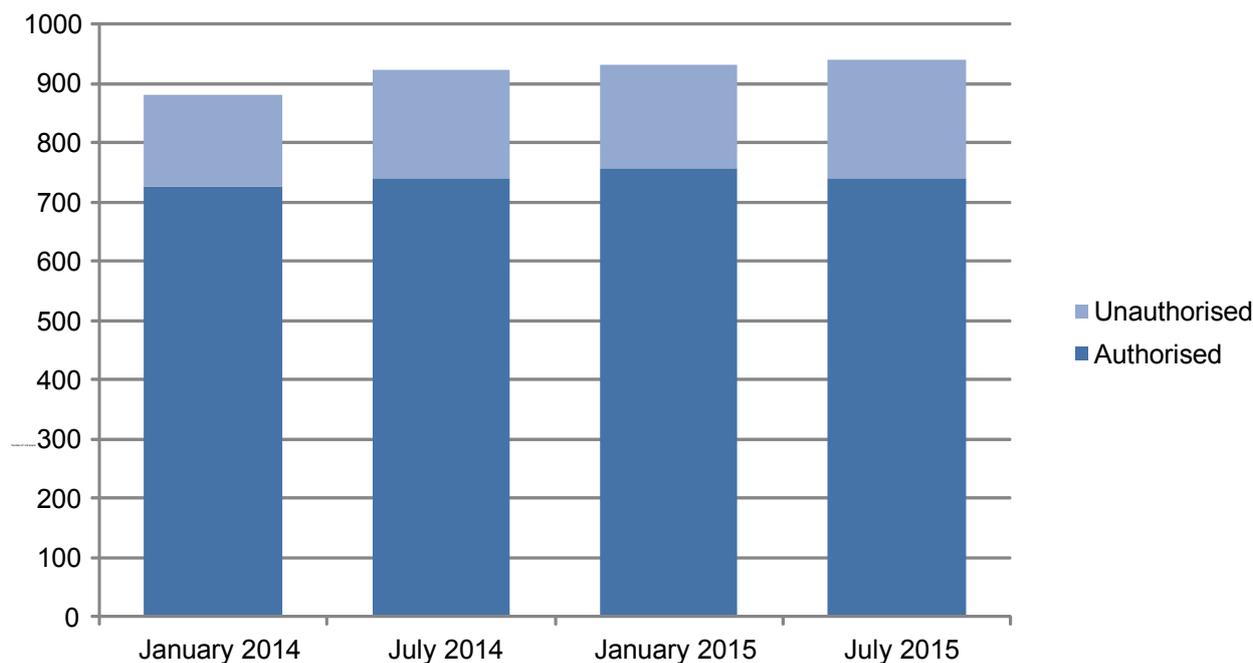
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Table 3 shows that on 16 July 2015, Cardiff had the highest total number of caravans with 169, 19 per cent of which were on unauthorised sites. Pembrokeshire had the second highest number with a total of 143 caravans, but these were all on authorised sites.

The Isle of Anglesey and Ceredigion did not provide authorised sites, so in those Local Authorities all caravans were on unauthorised sites. In contrast, all the caravans in Pembrokeshire, Neath Port Talbot, Bridgend, Blaenau Gwent and Monmouthshire were on authorised sites.

Overall, 20 per cent of caravans in Wales were on unauthorised sites. This is higher than in the July 2014 count, where 18 per cent of caravans in Wales were on unauthorised sites.

**Figure 3: Number of caravans<sup>1</sup> by site authorisation, Wales – January 2014 to July 2015**



<sup>1</sup> Based on the 20 Local Authorities which responded to all four counts. Data from Flintshire and Monmouthshire is not included to allow for a more accurate comparison.

Across the 20 Local Authorities that responded in all four counts, July 2015 had the highest total number of caravans, with 941. January 2014 had the lowest total with 881.

When comparing the July 2014 and July 2015 counts across the whole of Wales, the number of caravans on authorised sites has decreased by 2 per cent (17 caravans) and the number of caravans on unauthorised sites has increased by 11 per cent (21 caravans).

**Table 4: Number of Gypsy and Traveller sites by authorisation, 2014 to 2015**

	Number of sites							
	January 2014 <sup>1</sup>		July 2014		January 2015		July 2015	
	Authorised Sites	Unauthorised Sites	Authorised Sites	Unauthorised Sites	Authorised Sites	Unauthorised Sites	Authorised Sites	Unauthorised Sites
Isle of Anglesey	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	3
Gwynedd	2	4	2	3	2	0	2	1
Conwy	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	1
Denbighshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flintshire	..	..	6	0	8	1	5	2
Wrexham	3	1	3	1	4	1	2	2
Powys	4	4	5	3	4	2	5	4
Ceredigion	0	2	0	3	0	3	0	3
Pembrokeshire	12	2	15	1	15	1	17	0
Carmarthenshire	6	3	6	3	6	4	6	4
Swansea	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	2
Neath Port Talbot	3	0	3	0	3	0	3	0
Bridgend	1	0	1	0	2	0	2	0
Vale of Glamorgan	1	3	1	3	2	2	2	2
Cardiff	4	3	4	5	4	7	4	4
Rhondda Cynon Taf	5	0	5	0	4	1	4	1
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	1	0	1	0
Newport	6	4	6	4	5	5	5	6
<b>Wales</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>37</b>
Comparable Total <sup>2</sup>	53	30	57	34	57	33	59	35

1 Wales figure based on data provided by 20 Local Authorities

2 Based on the 20 Local Authorities which responded to all four counts. Data from Flintshire and Monmouthshire is not included to allow for a more accurate comparison.

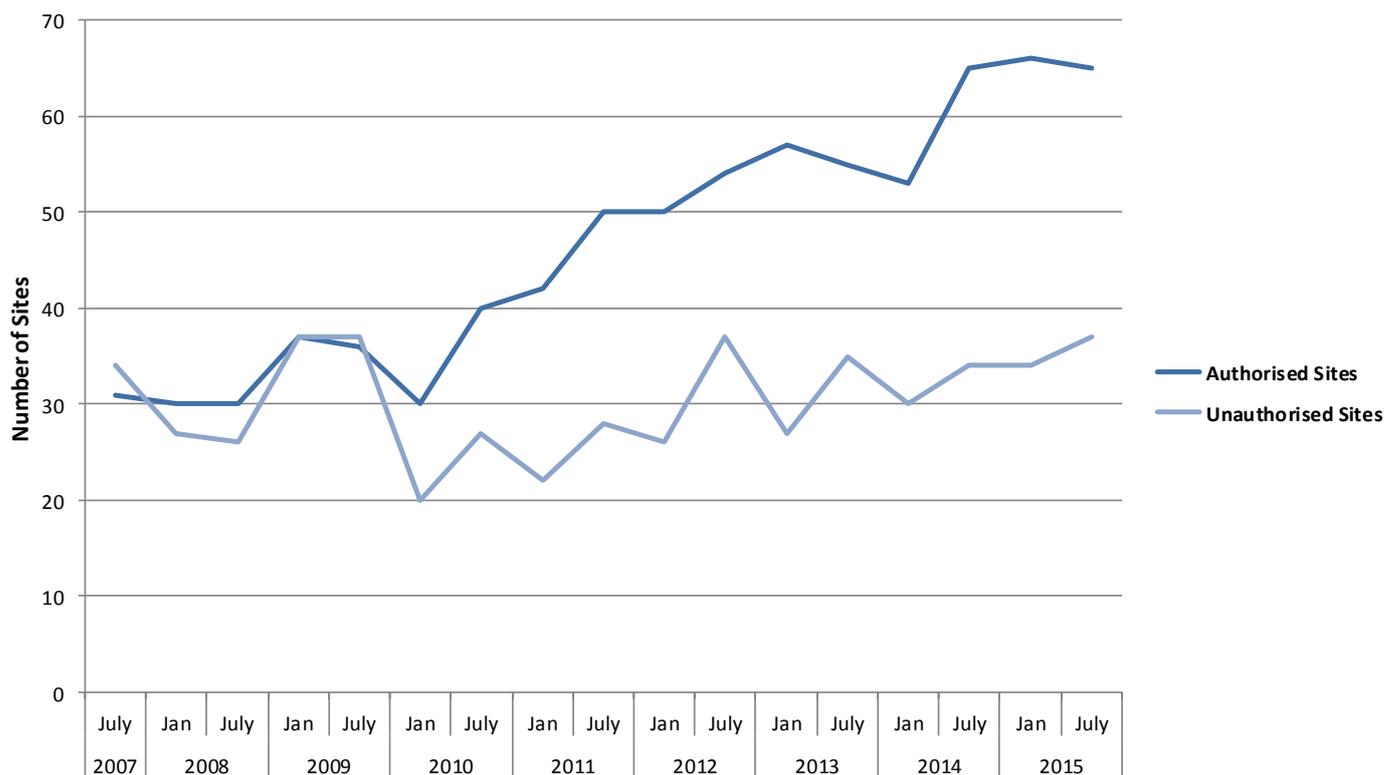
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There were 102 Gypsy and Traveller sites in Wales in July 2015; an increase of 2 sites from January 2015. 65 of these were authorised (64 per cent) and 37 were unauthorised (36 per cent).

Comparing July 2014 to July 2015, the total number of sites has increased by 3 (3 per cent). Looking at the increase in more detail, all 3 of the sites were unauthorised (an increase of 8 per cent). The number of authorised sites is unchanged when comparing the July 2014 and July 2015 counts.

Across the 20 Local Authorities that responded in all four counts seen in Table 4, July 2015 had the highest total number of sites.

**Figure 4: Number of Gypsy and Traveller sites by authorisation, 2007 to 2015<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup>This figure is based on the all Wales totals for each count and hence, as not every Local Authority submitted data for each count, caution should be exercised when drawing comparisons across years. Note that in particular, 2010 had a low response rate with 7 Local Authorities not responding in the January count and 4 not responding in the July count.

Figure 4 shows the historic trend of the number of Gypsy and Traveller sites by authorisation. Since July 2007, there has been an increase of 37 sites (36 per cent); 34 being authorised and 3 being unauthorised.

In general, the number of authorised sites has increased faster than the number of unauthorised sites. The apparent drop in the number of sites in 2010 should however be interpreted with caution. In particular, 7 Local Authorities did not respond in the January 2010 count and this may contribute to the fluctuations seen in Figure 4.

## **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.

### **Gypsies and Travellers**

For the purposes of this release 'Gypsies and Travellers' include 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'. The caravan count is not designed to be an estimate of the Gypsy or Irish Traveller population in Wales.

### **Local Authority sites**

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

### **Not Tolerated**

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.

### **Pitch**

A pitch also referred to as a plot, will vary according to the size of the occupant household. One pitch can accommodate multiple caravans.

### **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.

### **Tolerated**

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.

### **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.

**Unauthorised sites 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.

## Key Quality Information

Official Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political reference.

Note that the information collected as part of the count is outside the scope of National Statistics. 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.

### Relevance

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

The commencement of section 101 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 requires Local Authorities to carry out an assessment of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers residing in or resorting to their area.

The Welsh Government has made available approximately £2.1 million in 2014/15 for the development of new and refurbishment of existing Local Authorities Gypsy and Traveller sites in Wales.

Since January 2011, the counts have been conducted by the data collection team within the Welsh Government. Previous data collections had been conducted by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

The caravan count does not estimate the number of Gypsy and Travellers in need of sites. Evidence suggests that many people identifying as 'Gypsy or Irish Travellers' live in homes that are not mobile structures.

Further information from the 2011 Census on Gypsy and Travellers accommodation for England and Wales is available from:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/census/2011-census-analysis/what-does-the-2011-census-tell-us-about-the-characteristics-of-gypsy-or-irish-travellers-in-england-and-wales-/index.html>

### Users and Uses

The count is used when assessing bids from local authorities for the Gypsy and Traveller Sites Capital Grant. Some of the other uses include:

- Monitoring of progress towards targets
- Policy development
- Advice to Ministers
- Informing debate in the National Assembly for Wales and beyond

There is a variety of users of the Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count statistics, including national and local government, researchers, students, as well as individual citizens with an interest in the count.

The Programme for Government 2011-2016, which is the current government programme, outlines the Welsh Government's commitment to increasing the number of authorised Gypsy and Traveller sites in Wales. As such, there is an indicator within the Programme for Government, looking at the number of authorised Gypsy and Traveller sites (TR126).

Further information on the programme for Government can be found at <http://gov.wales/about/programmeforgov/?lang=en>

## Accuracy

The data contained in this release is collected from information reported by Local Authorities. 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.
- The counts are voluntary, with no rewards to Local Authorities completing their returns or penalties for those that fail to do so.

The caravan count for Wales in this statistical release was conducted on the same day as the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) conducted the caravan count for England (16<sup>th</sup> July 2015). This is to avoid double counting caravans travelling between Wales and England.

## Symbols

The following symbols may have been used in this release:

. Not applicable

.. Not available

~ Not yet available

\* Disclosed or not sufficiently robust for publication

p Provisional

r Revised

## 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 ten weeks after the reference period, this allows time to collect, collate and validate the data.

## Accessibility and Clarity

This statistical first release is pre-announced and then published in the Statistics and Research 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. The count takes place twice a year to reflect winter residence and summer travelling trends and changes. Previous years figures indicate the number of unauthorised caravans are higher during the summer (July) count.

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.

## Revisions

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

## Related Statistics for Other UK Countries

Caravan Count Statistics for other UK countries is available at the following links:

Collected by the Department for Communities and Local Government in England: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/traveller-caravan-count-january-2015>

The Scottish Government collects and publishes information on travellers in Scotland. In particular, a recent review of the evidence base is available at:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/Equality/gypsiestravellers>

Information on traveller accommodation in Northern Ireland is available at:

[http://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/sp\\_home/strategies/travellers.htm](http://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/sp_home/strategies/travellers.htm)

## Consultation

The Welsh Government's consultation on official statistics closed on 3rd March 2014. The consultation covered a range of proposals relating to official statistics products, including a review of the frequency and content of the Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count. A summary of responses to the consultation, including our intended course of action for each statistical product affected, was published in April 2014 as is available here:

[www.gov.wales/consultations/statistics/proposals-concerning-publication-official-statistics/?status=closed&lang=en](http://www.gov.wales/consultations/statistics/proposals-concerning-publication-official-statistics/?status=closed&lang=en)

As a result, Welsh Government is currently trialling a new online caravan count system which will allow Local Authorities to log unauthorised encampments as they occur and record authorised sites. The new system will go live in December 2015 and will be used concurrently with existing caravan count system.

## Further Information

Caravan Count data is available on Stats Wales:

- Number of Caravans by authorisation and Local Authority from July 2006 to July 2015. <https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Equality-and-Diversity/Gypsy-and-Traveller-Caravan-Count/NumberOfCaravans-by-Authorisation-LocalAuthority>
- Number of pitches by residential status, occupied status and Local Authority July 2010 to July 2015. <https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Equality-and-Diversity/Gypsy-and-Traveller-Caravan-Count/NumberOfPitches-by-ResidentialStatus-Occupiedstatus-LocalAuthority>
- Number of sites by authorisation and Local Authority July 2007 to July 2015. <https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Equality-and-Diversity/Gypsy-and-Traveller-Caravan-Count/NumberOfSites-by-Authorisation-LocalAuthority>

## Comments and contact information

We actively encourage feedback from our users. If you have any comments please e-mail us at: [stats.inclusion@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:stats.inclusion@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

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