

Gypsy and traveller caravan count January 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 sets out the number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans on authorised and unauthorised sites in Wales, and the status of pitches on Local Authority sites, on 15th January 2015. The Gypsy and Traveller caravan counts are voluntary and are carried out in January and July every year. All 22 Local Authorities in Wales responded in January 2015. Year on year comparisons are calculated either January to January or July to July as the number of caravans can be affected by seasonal fluctuation.

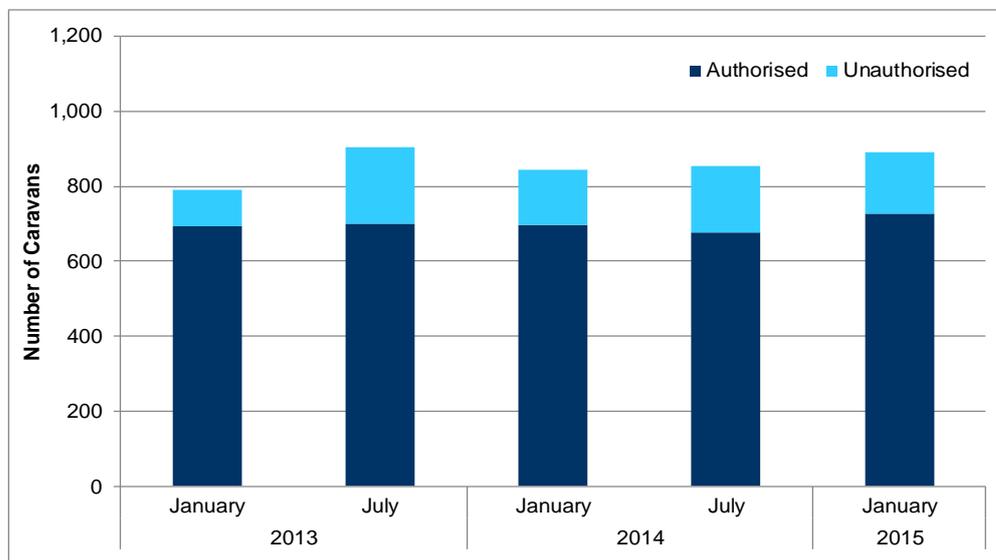
See Key Quality Information section for more background and quality information. More detailed tables are provided on [StatsWales](#). Terms which have a special meaning are further explained in the [glossary](#).

Key results

- On the 15th January 2015 there were 1,020 Gypsy and Traveller caravans and 100 sites reported in Wales (Table 1 and Table 4).
- Across the 20 Local Authorities that participated in both the January 2014 and January 2015 count, the total number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans increased by 6 per cent (50 caravans) and the total number of sites (both authorised and unauthorised) has increased by 8 per cent (7 sites) (Table 3).
- Of the 1,020 Gypsy and Traveller caravans, 83 per cent (845 caravans) were on authorised sites (Either Local Authority or privately rented, Table 3).
- At the time of the count there were 374 residential pitches on Gypsy and Traveller sites provided by Local Authorities in Wales, all of which were occupied (Table 2).

Figure 1: Number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans by site authorisation, 2013 to 2015

Note: This chart is based only on the 19 Local Authorities that responded to all five counts shown. Data from Powys, Monmouthshire and Flintshire has been removed to allow for a more accurate comparison between counts.



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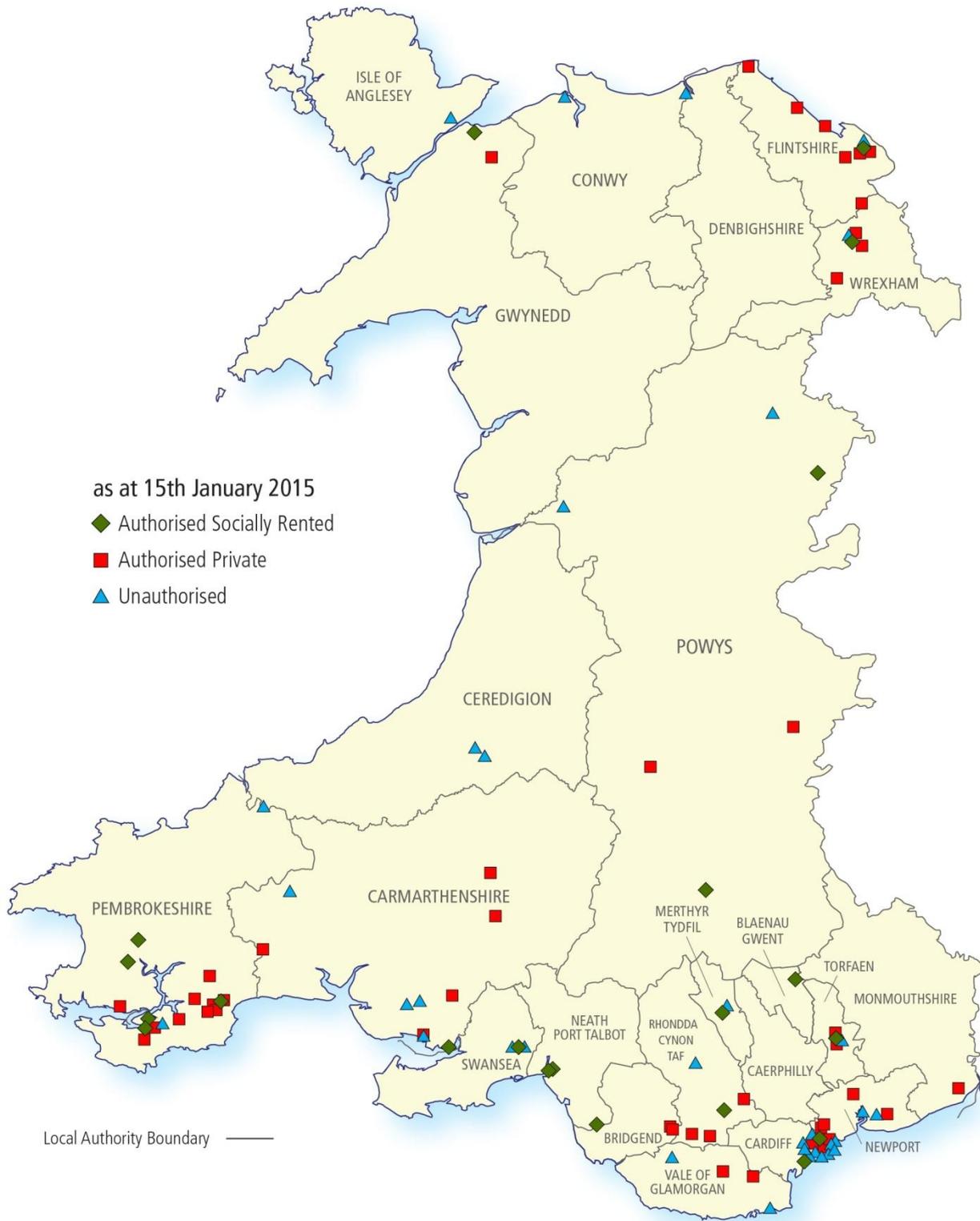


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Map 1: Gypsy and Traveller Sites in Wales in January 2015



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March 2015



Table 1: Number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans on 15th January 2015

	Number of caravans						
	Authorised sites (with planning permission)		Unauthorised sites (without planning permission)				All caravans
	Number of caravans		On Gypsies own land		On land not owned by Gypsies		
	Local Authority ¹	Private	Tolerated	Not tolerated	Tolerated	Not tolerated	
Isle of Anglesey	0	0	0	0	14	0	14
Gwynedd	10	3	0	0	0	0	13
Conwy	0	0	0	0	2	1	3
Denbighshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flintshire	42	44	0	0	0	2	88
Wrexham	37	5	0	3	0	0	45
Powys	28	4	0	0	7	0	39
Ceredigion	0	0	0	0	2	2	4
Pembrokeshire	133	23	1	0	0	0	157
Carmarthenshire	19	53	3	18	0	0	93
Swansea	15	0	0	0	13	3	31
Neath Port Talbot	89	0	0	0	0	0	89
Bridgend	0	6	0	0	0	0	6
Vale of Glamorgan	0	3	0	0	20	0	23
Cardiff	140	6	6	25	0	0	177
Rhondda Cynon Taf	7	19	0	0	0	4	30
Merthyr Tydfil	42	0	0	0	8	0	50
Caerphilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blaenau Gwent	20	0	0	0	0	0	20
Torfaen	46	19	5	0	0	0	70
Monmouthshire	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Newport	0	31	2	8	25	1	67
Wales	628	217	17	54	91	13	1,020

¹ Alternatively known as Socially Rented sites. Includes sites owned by Registered Social Landlords.

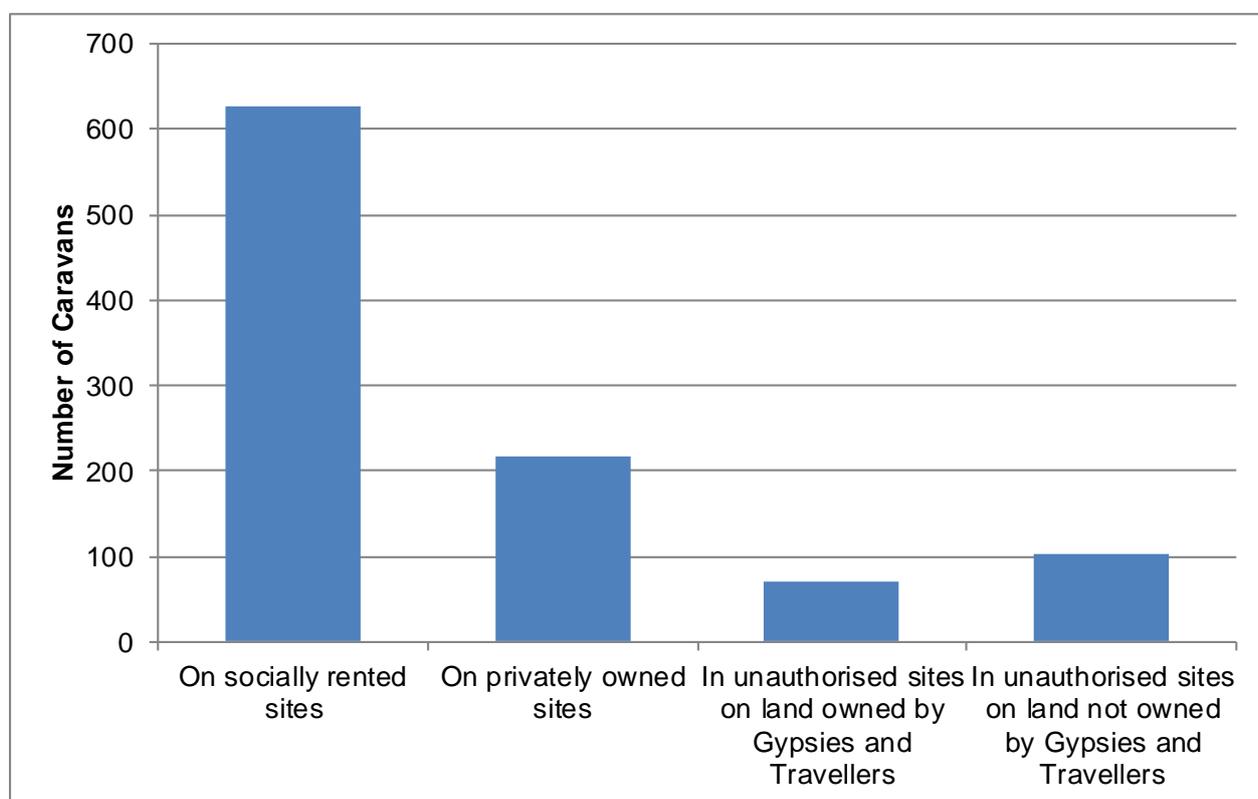
At the time of the January 2015 count, the total number of caravans in Wales was 1,020. Table 1 shows that on 15th January 2015, Cardiff and Pembrokeshire had the highest total number of caravans, combined these accounted for approximately a third of all caravans. Denbighshire and Caerphilly reported having no caravans in the January 2015 count (see Figure 3).

There were 845 caravans on authorised sites with planning permission, accounting for 83 per cent of all caravans. Of these, 628 (62 per cent) were on socially-rented sites and 217 (21 per cent) were on privately-funded sites.

There were 71 caravans on unauthorised sites on land owned by Gypsies and Travellers, accounting for 7 per cent of all caravans. A further 104 caravans (10 per cent of all caravans) were on unauthorised sites not owned by Gypsies and Travellers.

Cardiff and Carmarthenshire had the highest number of caravans on unauthorised sites, owned by Gypsies and Travellers that were not tolerated by the Local Authority.

Figure 2: Number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans on 15th January 2015, by type of site



Map 2: Number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans on unauthorised sites, 15th January 2015

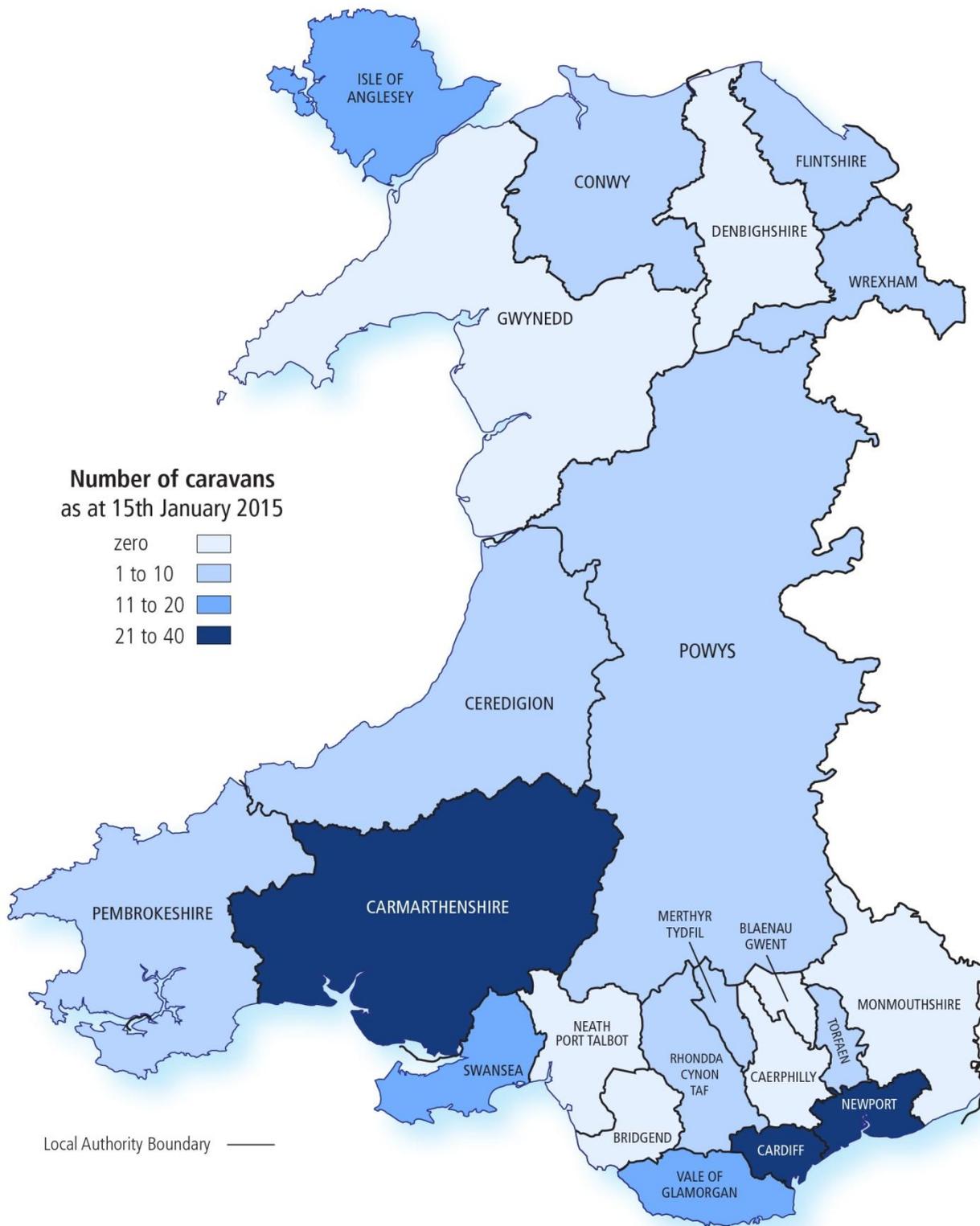


Table 2: Number of pitches¹ on Gypsy and Traveller sites provided by Local Authorities² in Wales on 15th January 2015

	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	0	0	0	0	0
Denbighshire	0	0	0	0	0
Flintshire	20	0	0	0	20
Wrexham	15	0	0	0	15
Powys	20	0	0	0	20
Ceredigion	0	0	0	0	0
Pembrokeshire	75	0	0	0	75
Carmarthenshire	19	0	0	0	19
Swansea	7	0	0	0	7
Neath Port Talbot	54	0	0	0	54
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	25	0	0	1	26
Monmouthshire	0	0	0	0	0
Newport	0	0	0	0	0
Wales	374	0	0	1	375

¹ One pitch may accommodate multiple caravans

² Does not include Authorised Private Sites

There were 375 pitches on Gypsy and Traveller sites provided by Local Authorities in Wales on 15th January 2015. Of these, 374 were residential pitches and 1 was a transit pitch. The number of transit pitches has decreased notably since July 2014. This is due to the seasonality of pitches, for example during the previous count (July 2014) Powys had provided temporary stopping sites for Gypsies and Travellers attending the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show.

On the 15th January 2015 Cardiff, Pembrokeshire and Neath Port Talbot had the highest number of pitches provided by Local Authorities, accounting for over half of the total number of pitches (56 per cent).

There were 9 Local Authorities with no pitches on the 15th January 2015.

At the time of the count 100 per cent of the residential pitches were occupied, and the one transit pitch was vacant.

The total number of pitches has increased by 1 per cent (2 pitches) for the 20 Authorities that participated in both the January 2014 and January 2015 counts.

Table 3: Number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans by site authorisation, 2013 to 2015

	Number of caravans							
	July 2013 ¹		January 2014 ²		July 2014		January 2015	
	Authorised Sites	Unauthorised Sites	Authorised Sites	Unauthorised Sites	Authorised Sites	Unauthorised Sites	Authorised Sites	Unauthorised Sites
Isle of Anglesey	0	39	0	12	0	32	0	14
Gwynedd	10	12	10	0	10	3	13	0
Conwy	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	3
Denbighshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flintshire	73	2	..	..	98	0	86	2
Wrexham	29	6	22	2	37	2	42	3
Powys	..	..	29	7	61	7	32	7
Ceredigion	0	5	0	4	0	6	0	4
Pembrokeshire	142	4	140	2	151	1	156	1
Carmarthenshire	83	15	80	17	74	16	72	21
Swansea	15	27	14	16	15	19	15	16
Neath Port Talbot	78	0	88	0	86	0	89	0
Bridgend	4	4	4	0	4	0	6	0
Vale of Glamorgan	0	35	0	20	0	19	3	20
Cardiff	179	2	158	29	131	35	146	31
Rhondda Cynon Taf	30	0	30	0	30	0	26	4
Merthyr Tydfil	35	7	42	7	37	7	42	8
Caerphilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blaenau Gwent	22	0	25	0	20	0	20	0
Torfaen	54	7	53	6	53	5	65	5
Monmouthshire	4	0	..	..	4	0	1	0
Newport	20	39	31	33	30	27	31	36
Wales total	778	204	726	155	841	184	845	175
Comparable total ³	701	202	697	148	678	177	726	166

¹ Wales figures based on data provided by 21 Local Authorities

² Wales figures based on data provided by 20 Local Authorities

³ Based on the 19 Local Authorities which responded to all four counts. Data for Flintshire, Powys and Monmouthshire is not included to allow for a more accurate comparison (See Figure 1).

.. Data item not available

For the 20 Local Authorities that participated in both counts, the number of caravans increased by 4 per cent (32 caravans) on authorised sites and by 12 per cent (18 caravans) on unauthorised sites between January 2014 and January 2015.

Across the 19 Local Authorities that responded in all four counts seen in Table 3, July 2013 had the highest total number of caravans.

Figure 3 shows the breakdown of caravans on authorised and unauthorised sites in each local authority in Wales, January 2015. Cardiff has the highest number of caravans with 177, 18 per cent of which were unauthorised.

Isle of Anglesey, Conwy and Ceredigion have the highest percentage of caravans on unauthorised sites, with 100 per cent each. Gwynedd, Neath Port Talbot, Bridgend, Blaenau Gwent and Monmouthshire all had no caravans on unauthorised sites. Overall, 17 per cent of caravans in Wales are on unauthorised sites.

Figure 3: Number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans by Local Authority, 15th January 2015, by site authorisation

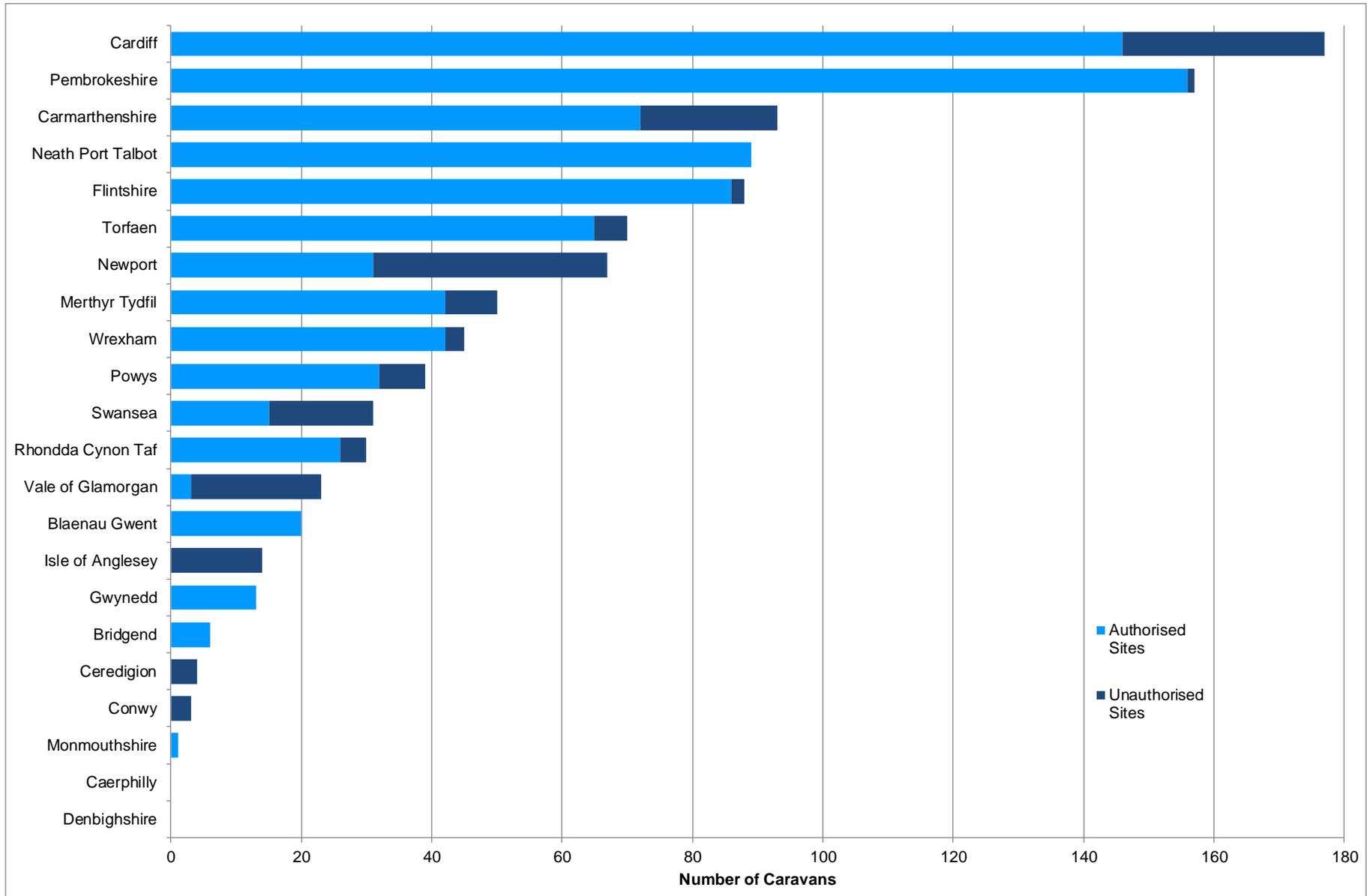


Table 4: Number of Gypsy and Traveller sites by authorisation, 2013 to 2015

	Number							
	July 2013 ¹		January 2014 ²		July 2014		January 2015	
	Authorised Sites	Unauthorised Sites	Authorised Sites	Unauthorised Sites	Authorised Sites	Unauthorised Sites	Authorised Sites	Unauthorised Sites
Isle of Anglesey	0	4	0	1	0	3	0	1
Gwynedd	2	4	2	4	2	3	2	0
Conwy	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Denbighshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flintshire	5	1	..	..	6	0	8	1
Wrexham	3	2	3	1	3	1	4	1
Powys	..	..	4	4	5	3	4	2
Ceredigion	0	3	0	2	0	3	0	3
Pembrokeshire	10	2	12	2	15	1	15	1
Carmarthenshire	6	3	6	3	6	3	6	4
Swansea	1	3	1	1	1	2	1	2
Neath Port Talbot	3	0	3	0	3	0	3	0
Bridgend	1	1	1	0	1	0	2	0
Vale of Glamorgan	1	4	1	3	1	3	2	2
Cardiff	6	1	4	3	4	5	4	7
Rhondda Cynon Taf	5	0	5	0	5	0	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	..	..	2	0	1	0
Newport	5	5	6	4	6	4	5	5
Wales	55	35	53	30	65	34	66	34
Comparable total ³	48	34	49	26	52	31	53	31

¹ Wales figures based on data provided by 21 Local Authorities

² Wales figures based on data provided by 20 Local Authorities

³ Based on the 19 Local Authorities which responded to all four counts. Data for Flintshire, Powys and Monmouthshire is not included to allow for a more accurate comparison (See Figure 4).

.. Data item not available

There were 100 Gypsy and Traveller sites in Wales in January 2015, 66 of these were authorised and 34 were unauthorised.

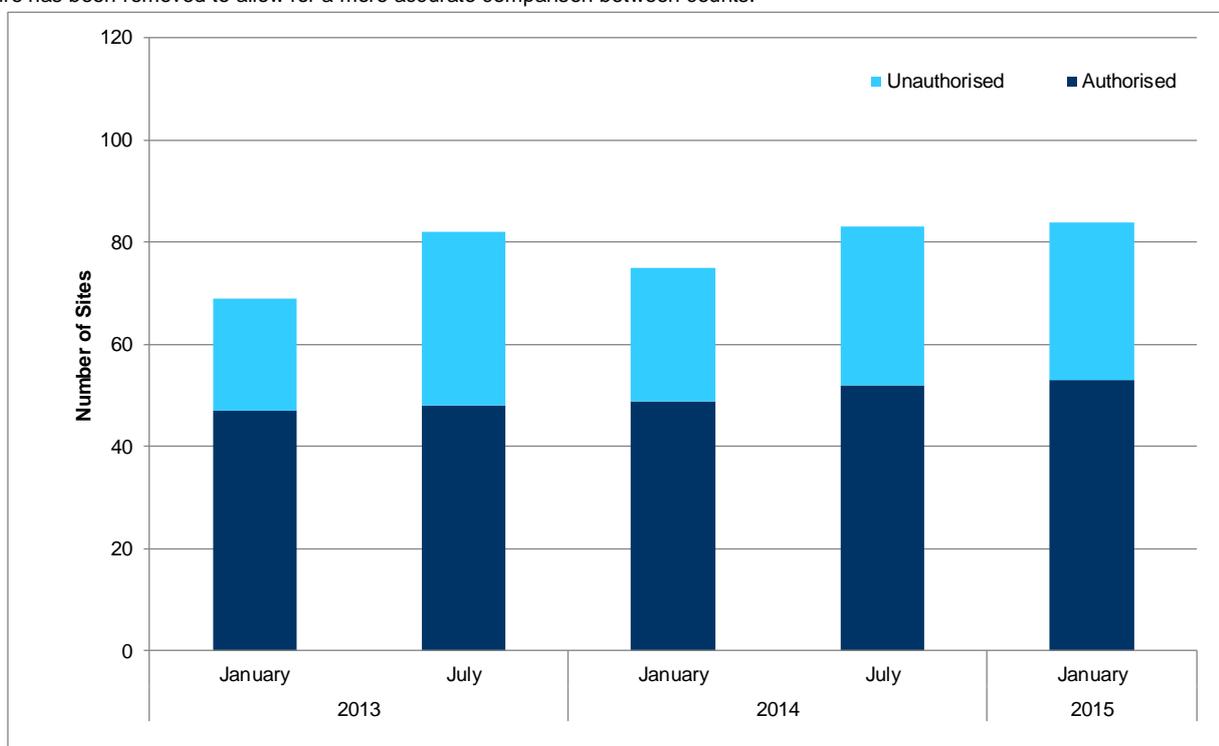
For the 20 Local Authorities that participated in both the January 2014 and January 2015 count, the total number of sites has increased by 7 (8 per cent). Looking at the increase in more detail, 4 of the 7 sites were authorised (an 8 per cent increase) and the remaining 3 sites were unauthorised (a 10 per cent increase) between the January 2014 and January 2015 counts.

Across the 19 Local Authorities that responded in all four counts seen in Table 4, January 2015 had the highest total number of sites.

For the 20 Local Authorities that responded to both counts, the total number of authorised sites in Wales has increased from 30 in January 2008 to 61 in January 2015 (data available on [Stats Wales](#)).

Figure 4: Number of Gypsy and Traveller sites by authorisation, 2013 to 2015

Note: This chart is based only on the 19 Local Authorities that responded to all five counts shown. Data from Powys, Monmouthshire and Flintshire has been removed to allow for a more accurate comparison between counts.



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://www.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 (15th January 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
- * Disclosive 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://www.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-july-2014>

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

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:

<http://www.gov.wales/consultations/statistics/proposals-concerning-publication-official-statistics/?status=closed&lang=en>

As a result, we are currently in the process of developing a new online data collection system, allowing Local Authorities to log unauthorised encampments as they occur and record authorised sites.

Further Information

Caravan Count data available on Stats Wales:

- Number of Caravans by authorisation and Local Authority from July 2006 to January 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 January 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 January 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

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