

Gypsy and traveller caravan count, July 2014

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 17th July 2014. 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. The Wales' caravan count in this Statistical Release was conducted on same day as England, collected by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

See Key Quality Information section for more background and quality information. More detailed tables are provided in [Statswales](#). Terms which have a special meaning are further explained in the [glossary](#). The counts of Gypsy and Traveller caravans' data are voluntary. All 22 Local Authorities in Wales responded in July 2014. Note also that the number of caravans in Welsh Local Authorities is affected by seasonal fluctuation.

Totals (this includes all 22 Local Authorities unless otherwise stated)

- On 17th July 2014, 1,025 Gypsy and Traveller caravans were reported in Wales.
- 99 sites were reported across Wales.
- Across the 21 Local Authorities that participated in both the July 2013 and July 2014 count, the total number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans has decreased by 3 per cent (25 caravans) and the total number of sites (both authorised and unauthorised) has increased by 1 per cent (1 site).

Authorised sites

- There were 841 caravans on authorised sites with planning permission, accounting for 82 per cent of all caravans. Of these, 615 (73 per cent) were on Local Authority sites and 226 (27 per cent) on private sites.
- For the 21 Local Authorities that participated in both the July 2013 and July 2014 count, the number of caravans on authorised sites has increased by 2 caravans since the July 2013 count.
- The total number of authorised sites in Wales has increased from 31 in July 2007 to 60 in July 2014 for the 21 Local Authorities who responded to both counts (data available on Statswales).

Unauthorised sites

- There were 60 caravans on unauthorised sites on land owned by Gypsies and Travellers, accounting for 6 per cent of all caravans.
- A further 124 caravans (12 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 in the July 2014 count was 13 per cent (27 caravans) less than July 2013.

Gypsy and Traveller Sites provided by Local Authorities

- There were 470 pitches on Gypsy and Traveller sites provided by Local Authorities in Wales on 17 July 2014.
- Of these, 369 were residential pitches and 101 were transit pitches. 98 per cent of the residential pitches were occupied, and 29 of the 101 transit pitches were also occupied.
- The total number of pitches has increased by 1 pitch for the 21 Authorities that participated in both

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Next update: March 2015 (provisional)

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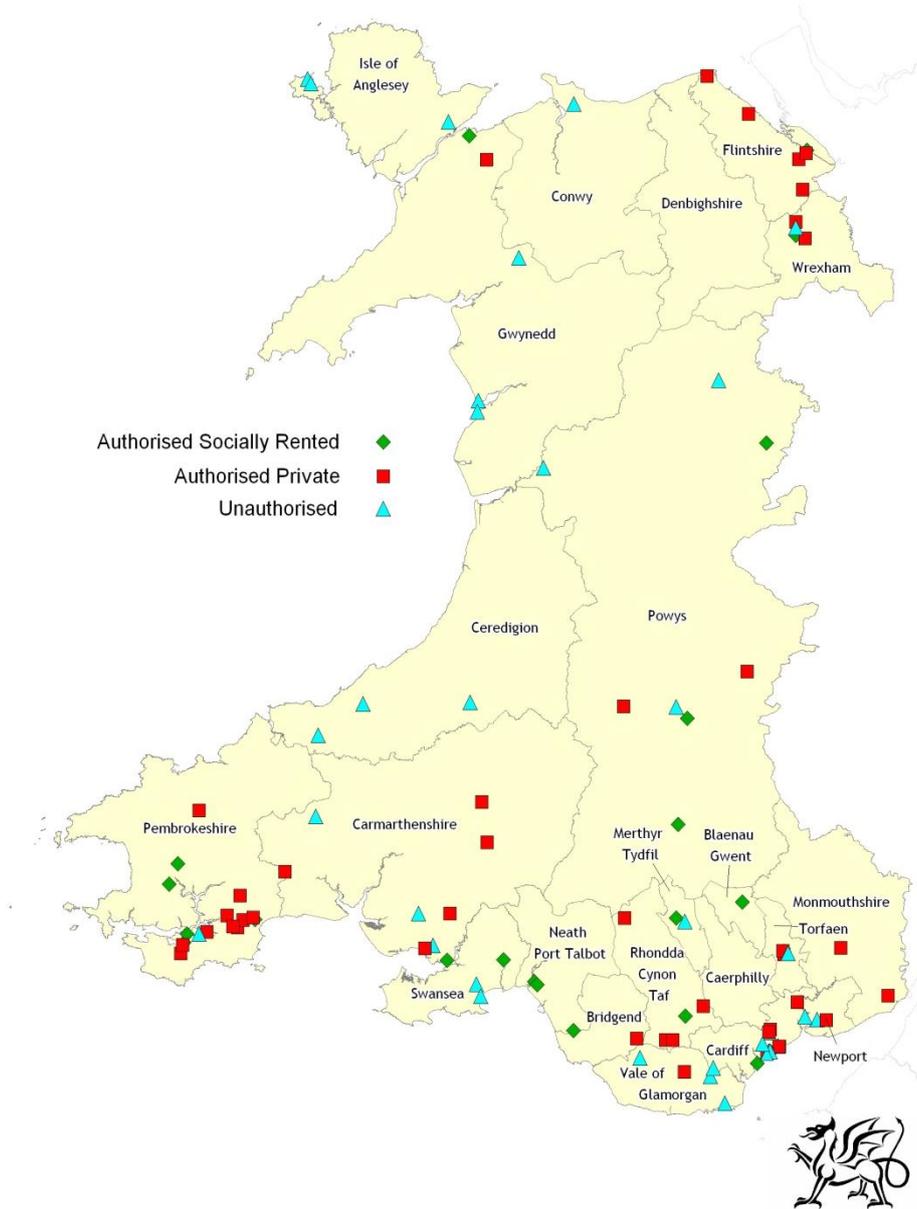
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www.wales.gov.uk/statistics



Map 1: Gypsy and Traveller Sites in Wales on the 17th July 2014



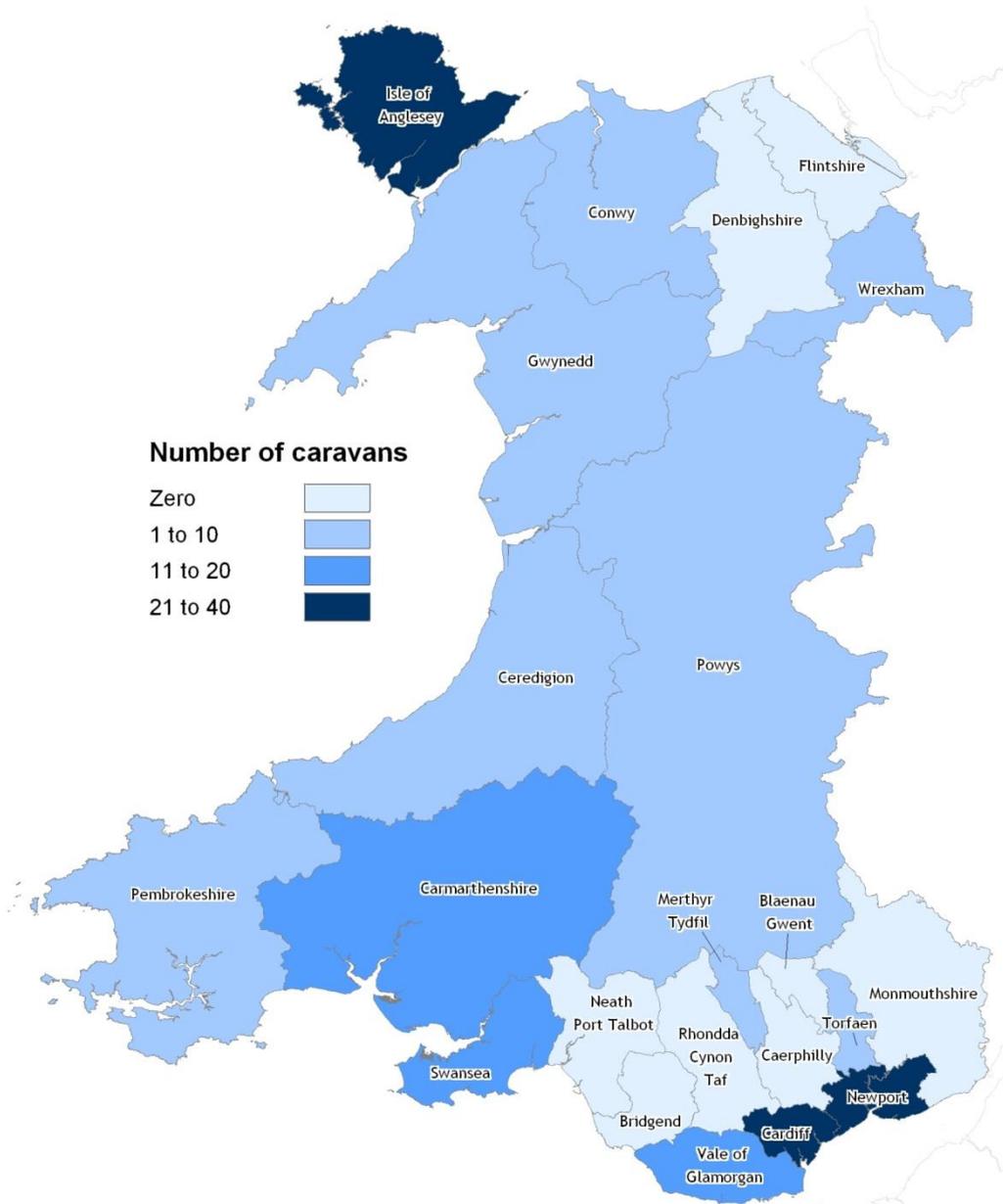
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Cartographics, FCS

**Map 2: Number of caravans on unauthorised sites
on 17th July 2014**



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Table 1: Count of Gypsy and Traveller caravans on 17 July 2014

	Number						
	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		All caravans
	Local Authority (a)	Private	Tolerated	Not tolerated	Tolerated	Not tolerated	
Isle of Anglesey	0	0	0	0	32	0	32
Gwynedd	7	3	0	0	0	3	13
Conwy	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
Denbighshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flintshire	45	53	0	0	0	0	98
Wrexham	33	4	0	2	0	0	39
Powys	57	4	0	0	5	2	68
Ceredigion	0	0	1	0	0	5	6
Pembrokeshire	129	22	0	1	0	0	152
Carmarthenshire	17	57	3	13	0	0	90
Swansea	15	0	0	0	17	2	34
Neath Port Talbot	86	0	0	0	0	0	86
Bridgend	0	4	0	0	0	0	4
Vale of Glamorgan	0	0	0	0	18	1	19
Cardiff	128	3	4	27	0	4	166
Rhondda Cynon Taf	7	23	0	0	0	0	30
Merthyr Tydfil	37	0	0	0	7	0	44
Caerphilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blaenau Gwent	20	0	0	0	0	0	20
Torfaen	34	19	5	0	0	0	58
Monmouthshire	0	4	0	0	0	0	4
Newport	0	30	0	4	23	0	57
Wales	615	226	13	47	102	22	1,025

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

- On 17th July 2014, Cardiff, Pembrokeshire and Flintshire had the highest total number of caravans, combined these accounted for 41 per cent of all caravans. Denbighshire and Caerphilly reported having no caravans in the July 2014 count.
- At the time of the July 2014 count, the total number of caravans in Wales was 1,025. Of these, approximately 615 (60 per cent) were on socially-rented sites; 226 (22 per cent) were on privately-funded sites; 60 (6 per cent) were in unauthorised sites on land owned by gypsy and travellers; and 124 (12 per cent) were in unauthorised sites on land not owned by gypsy and travellers. This information is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Total number of Caravans in Wales 17th July 2014, by type of site

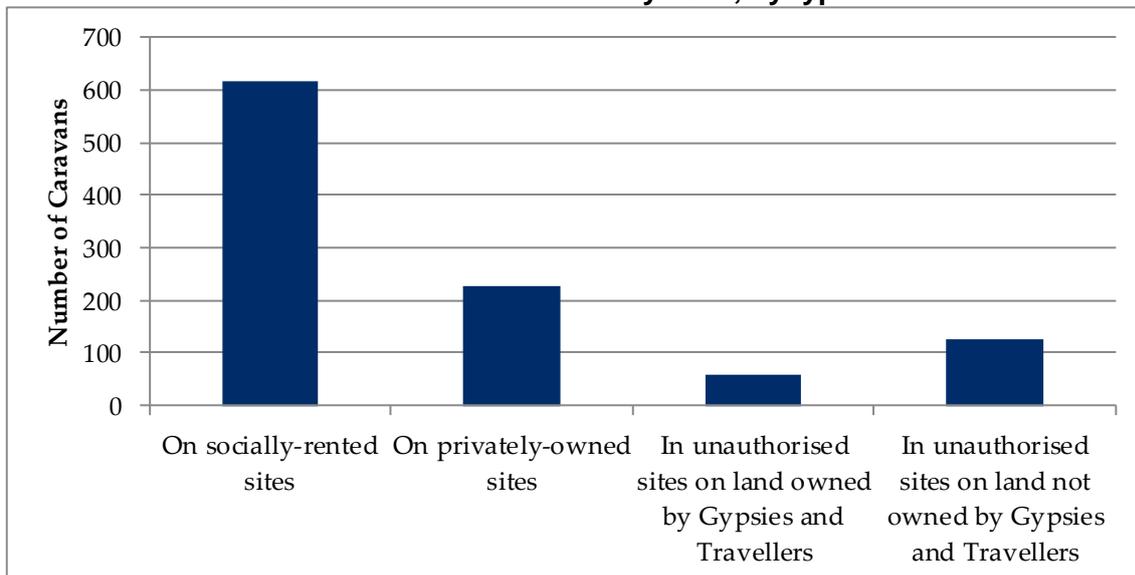


Table 2: Number of pitches¹ on Gypsy and Traveller sites provided by Local Authorities² in Wales on 17 July 2014

	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	21	0	0	0	21
Wrexham	15	0	0	0	15
Powys	19	1	28	72	120
Ceredigion	0	0	0	0	0
Pembrokeshire	70	4	0	0	74
Carmarthenshire	15	0	0	0	15
Swansea	7	0	0	0	7
Neath Port Talbot	53	1	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	21	3	0	0	24
Caerphilly	0	0	0	0	0
Blaenau Gwent	20	0	0	0	20
Torfaen	25	0	1	0	26
Monmouthshire	0	0	0	0	0
Newport	0	0	0	0	0
Wales	360	9	29	72	470

¹ One pitch may accommodate multiple caravans

² Does not include Authorised Private Sites

- There were 470 pitches on Gypsy and Traveller sites provided by Local Authorities in Wales on 17 July 2014. Of these, 369 were residential pitches and 101 were transit pitches. There was a large increase in the number of available transit pitches in this count (from 1 in July 2013 to 101 in July 2014) this is due to a temporary stopping place in Powys for Gypsies & Travellers attending the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show, this site is open for a two week period during the time of the show only.
- On the 17th of July 2014 Cardiff, Pembrokeshire and Powys accounted for almost three fifths of the total number of pitches (58 per cent).
- At the time of the count 98 per cent (360 pitches) of the residential pitches were occupied, and 29 of the 101 (29 per cent) transit pitches were also occupied.

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

	Number of caravans							
	January 2013		July 2013 (a)		January 2014 (b)		July 2014	
	Authorised Sites	Unauthorised Sites	Authorised Sites	Unauthorised Sites	Authorised Sites	Unauthorised Sites	Authorised Sites	Unauthorised Sites
Isle of Anglesey	0	11	0	39	0	12	0	32
Gwynedd	13	0	10	12	10	0	10	3
Conwy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Denbighshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flintshire	65	13	73	2	..	..	98	0
Wrexham	29	2	29	6	22	2	37	2
Powys	32	10	..	..	29	7	61	7
Ceredigion	0	0	0	5	0	4	0	6
Pembrokeshire	143	2	142	4	140	2	151	1
Carmarthenshire	78	15	83	15	80	17	74	16
Swansea	18	11	15	27	14	16	15	19
Neath Port Talbot	81	0	78	0	88	0	86	0
Bridgend	4	0	4	4	4	0	4	0
Vale of Glamorgan	0	18	0	35	0	20	0	19
Cardiff	181	1	179	2	158	29	131	35
Rhondda Cynon Taf	21	0	30	0	30	0	30	0
Merthyr Tydfil	31	5	35	7	42	7	37	7
Caerphilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blaenau Gwent	18	0	22	0	25	0	20	0
Torfaen	54	6	54	7	53	6	53	5
Monmouthshire	4	0	4	0	..	..	4	0
Newport	24	24	20	39	31	33	30	27
Wales	796	118	778	204	726	155	841	184

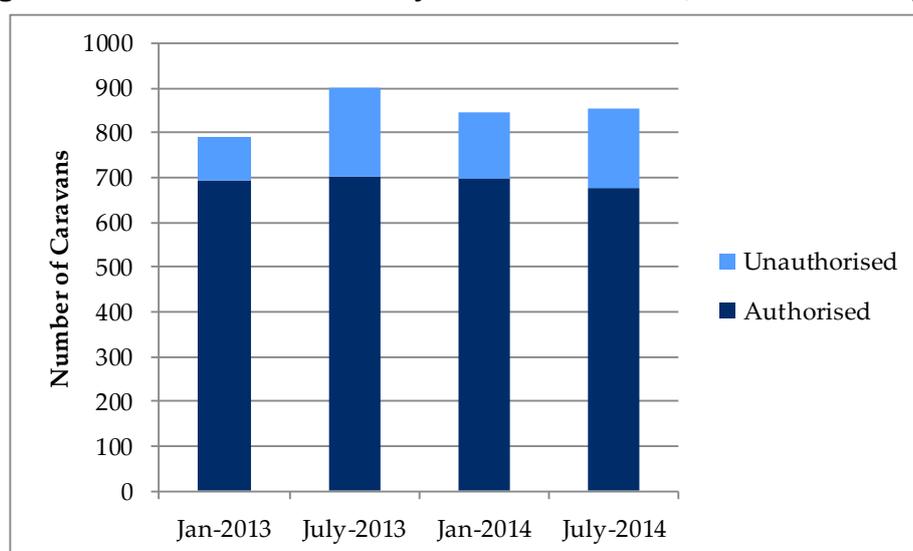
(a) Wales figures based on data provided by 21 Local Authorities

(b) Wales figures based on data provided by 20 Local Authorities

.. Data item not available

- For the 21 Local Authorities that participated in both the July 2013 and July 2014 count, the number of caravans on authorised sites has increased by 2 caravans, whilst the number of caravans on unauthorised sites has decreased 13 per cent (27 caravans) from the July 2013 to July 2014 count.

Figure 2: Number of caravans by site authorisation, Wales¹- January 2013 to July 2014



¹ Figure 2 shows the total number of caravans in Wales for the 19 Local Authorities that responded to all four counts shown in Table 3. Data from Powys, Monmouthshire and Flintshire has therefore been excluded. Flintshire represented 9 per cent of total caravans in January 2013.

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

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

	Number							
	January 2013		July 2013 (a)		January 2014 (b)		Jul-2014	
	Authorised Sites	Unauthorised Sites	Authorised Sites	Unauthorised Sites	Authorised Sites	Unauthorised Sites	Authorised Sites	Unauthorised Sites
Isle of Anglesey	0	1	0	4	0	1	0	3
Gwynedd	2	3	2	4	2	4	2	3
Conwy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Denbighshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flintshire	4	2	5	1	..	..	6	0
Wrexham	3	1	3	2	3	1	3	1
Powys	4	3	..	..	4	4	5	3
Ceredigion	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	3
Pembrokeshire	9	2	10	2	12	2	15	1
Carmarthenshire	6	3	6	3	6	3	6	3
Swansea	1	2	1	3	1	1	1	2
Neath Port Talbot	3	0	3	0	3	0	3	0
Bridgend	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0
Vale of Glamorgan	1	3	1	4	1	3	1	3
Cardiff	6	1	6	1	4	3	4	5
Rhondda Cynon Taf	4	0	5	0	5	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
Newport	6	4	5	5	6	4	6	4
Wales	57	27	55	35	53	30	65	34

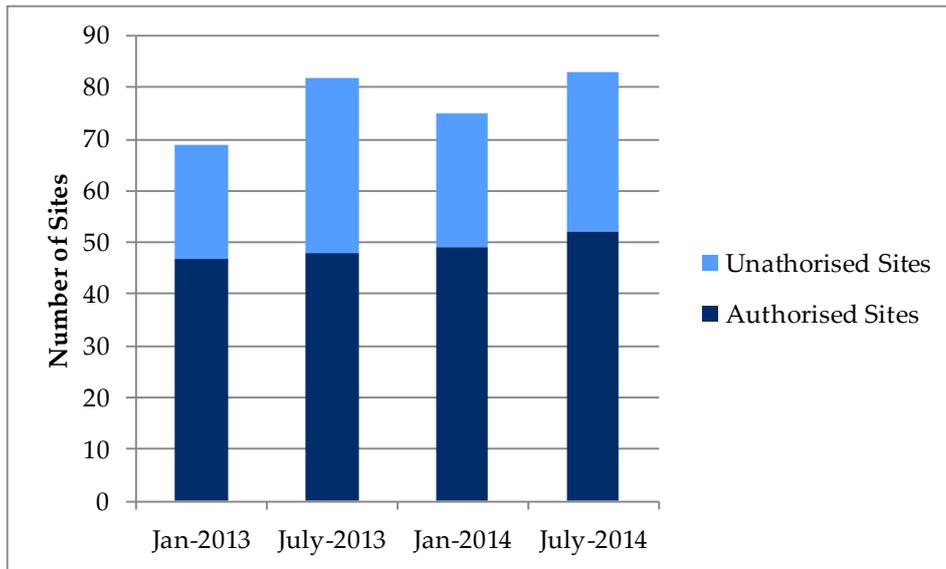
(a) Wales figures based on data provided by 21 Local Authorities

(b) Wales figures based on data provided by 20 Local Authorities

.. Data item not available

- For the 21 Local Authorities that participated in both the July 2013 and July 2014 count, the number authorised sites has increased by 5 sites (8 per cent), whilst the number of unauthorised sites has decreased by 4 sites (11 per cent) from the July 2013 to July 2014 count.
- Across the 21 Local Authorities that responded the total number of sites (both authorised and unauthorised) has increased by 1 site (1 per cent).

Figure 3: Number sites by authorisation, Wales¹- January 2013 to July 2014



¹ Figure 3 shows the total number of authorised and unauthorised sites in Wales for the 19 Local Authorities that responded to all four counts shown in Table 4. Data from Powys, Monmouthshire and Flintshire has therefore been excluded.

- Across the 19 Local Authorities that responded in all four counts seen in Table 4, July 2014 had the highest total number of sites.

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.

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.

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.

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

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 225 of the Housing Act 2004 in December 2007 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 refurbishment grant funding for worth £1.5 million in 2013/14 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. Previous data collections had been conducted by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

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>

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; and
- the counts are voluntary, with no rewards to Local Authorities completing their returns or penalties for those that fail to do so.

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 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

Due to a reporting error selected data was revised on the 13th of December 2013 for the January 2013 and July 2013 counts.

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=enn>

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-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.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Equality/Equalities/GypsyTravellerScotland>

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:

www.wales.gov.uk/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.

Further Information

Caravan Count data available on Stats Wales

- Number of Caravans by authorisation and Local Authority from July 2006 to July 2014.
<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 2014.
<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 2014.
<https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Equality-and-Diversity/Gypsy-and-Traveller-Caravan-Count/NumberOfSites-by-Authorisation-LocalAuthority>

Programme for Government Indicator

- TR126 Number of authorised Gypsy and Traveller sites

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

Comments and contact information

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