

Engage Scotland and Craigforth

Gypsy/Traveller Sites in Scotland

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1 Executive Summary

1.1 This report presents findings from a study collating data on Gypsy/Traveller sites in Scotland. The study has identified a total of 54 Gypsy/Traveller sites across Scotland, comprising 29 public and 25 private sites. The 54 sites provide a total of 613 pitches, the majority of these are let on a permanent basis. In addition to site accommodation, a total of 406 locations have been used for unauthorised Gypsy/Traveller encampments over the last 3 years. Further detail on site provision and encampment activity is provided below.

Public Gypsy/Traveller sites in Scotland

1.2 Data returns identify a total of 29 public Gypsy/Traveller sites across Scotland, providing a total of 397 active pitches. This represents a reduction in public site provision of 62 pitches over the last ten years (a fall of -14% since 2008), although the supply of active pitches is largely unchanged since 2009¹.

1.3 A total of 20 local authorities/RSLs provide one or more public Gypsy/Traveller sites; the remaining 12 local authority areas do not have any public site provision. Fife, Highland and Aberdeenshire report the largest site provision, and together account for nearly a third of all public site pitches.

1.4 A total of 351 pitches are currently let, equivalent to an occupancy rate of 88%. Levels of site occupancy vary significantly across local authority areas; 16 of the 29 sites report 100% occupancy, while 5 sites report occupancy of less than 70%.

1.5 The 351 occupied pitches suggests that the 2011 Census² may have under-counted Gypsy/Travellers living on public sites; the Census identified 259 Gypsy/Traveller households living in caravan or mobile accommodation. Historical data on the ratio between occupied pitches and households suggests the 2011 Census may have under-counted households on public Gypsy/Traveller sites by 8-18% of the total.

1.6 Twelve of the 19 local authorities with public sites reported current waiting list demand and/or having turned away households in the last year who were looking for site accommodation. A total of 90 households are currently registered on public site waiting lists, and 9 households had been turned away in the last year.

Private Gypsy/Traveller sites in Scotland

1.7 Local authority returns identify a total of 25 active private Gypsy/Traveller sites across Scotland, providing a total of 216 pitches. This represents a small increase from the 22 private sites reported by the last Twice-Yearly Count in 2009.

1.8 Active private Gypsy/Traveller sites are located across 9 local authority areas with Falkirk, Fife, Aberdeenshire and Perth & Kinross reporting the largest supply; these

¹ The Twice-Yearly Count of Gypsy/Travellers in Scotland July 2009.

² *Gypsy/Travellers in Scotland - A Comprehensive Analysis of the 2011 Census*. The 2011 Census was the first to include 'Gypsy/Traveller' as an ethnicity option, and sought to include all Gypsy/Travellers living on sites or in settled housing in Scotland.

areas together account for more than 80% of all private site pitches. Most of the local authority areas with private site provision are relatively rural in nature, with the majority of private site provision in the centre and east of Scotland.

Planning applications for private Gypsy/Traveller sites

1.9 The study has identified a total of 88 planning applications for private Gypsy/Traveller sites across Scotland, the majority of these were received between 2005 and 2018.

1.10 Seventeen local authorities record one or more planning applications for Gypsy/Traveller sites; the remaining 15 authorities do not record any applications. Mapping of planning applications sites indicates that the majority are in areas classified as 'accessible rural' or 'remote rural'.³ Around two thirds of applications are for sites of fewer than 5 pitches including 14 applications for single pitch sites, although several applications have been received for larger sites of 15 or more pitches.

1.11 Of the 88 planning applications, 35 were approved at the initial application stage, 34 were refused and a further 19 were pending or withdrawn. The majority of refused applications proceeded to appeal (29 of 34) and the majority of appeals were approved (18 of 29), equivalent to around half of all proposals refused at the application stage. A total of 53 planning applications for Gypsy/Traveller sites were approved at application or on appeal, equivalent to 60% of all applications recorded.

1.12 Reasons for refusal were published for 28 of the 34 applications which were refused at the application stage. Published notices indicate that reasons for refusal most commonly relate to proposals being contrary to the Local Development Plan and Strategic Development Plan policies, and/or having an adverse impact on the character of the local area. This was most commonly in relation to the impact of proposals on the local natural environment, including reference to a range of specific landscape designations, although some also referred to potential detrimental impact on the amenity enjoyed by neighbouring residents and integration with the built environment.

Unauthorised Gypsy/Traveller encampments

1.13 Local authority returns identify a total of 406 discreet locations across Scotland used for unauthorised Gypsy/Traveller encampments over the last 3 years.

1.14 These locations account for an average of 414 unauthorised encampments per year. This is equivalent to 1.0 encampment per location although activity varies significantly; 67 locations show an average of 2+ encampments per year, including 12 with an average of 5+ encampments per year.

1.15 Unauthorised encampments appear to be more prevalent across some regions than others, most notably in Ayrshire, Fife, Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Moray and the area around and to the north of Inverness. These regions typically report an average of more than 30 unauthorised encampments per year, compared to averages of 15-20 across other parts of Scotland. Mapping of encampment locations also indicates that these are typically in and around small towns and urban areas, with few recorded in areas classified as 'accessible rural' or 'remote rural'.

³ Based on the Scottish Government Urban Rural Classification <https://www.gov.scot/UrbanRural>

2 Introduction

2.1 This report presents findings from a study collating data on Gypsy/Traveller sites in Scotland. The Scottish Government commissioned Engage Scotland and Craigforth to undertake the data collection exercise to provide a baseline understanding of current supply and use of Gypsy/Traveller sites in Scotland, and to support future policy development.

Background

2.2 Gypsy/Travellers are recognised as a distinct ethnic group by the Scottish Government. The population in Scotland includes a range of communities who regard a travelling lifestyle as an important part of their identity, some of whom travel all year round while others maintain a permanent base on a site or in housing. This includes specific population groups such as Romany Gypsies and Scottish and Irish Travellers. Others such as Showpeople or New Age Travellers are distinct groups who are not generally regarded as Gypsy/Travellers.

2.3 The Scottish Government recognises that Gypsy/Travellers are a particularly marginalised and discriminated against population. This is reflected in the extent to which Gypsy/Travellers have been a focus for Scottish Government policy development over recent years, across planning, housing and equalities.

2.4 Most recently, the Scottish Government's Race Equality Action Plan sets out key actions for the current parliamentary session to drive positive change for minority ethnic groups in Scotland, and highlights the need for change to improve the experiences and opportunities for Gypsy/Travellers in Scotland. A Ministerial Working Group has been established to drive these changes for Gypsy/Travellers, and has identified housing and planning as one of four key areas of focus.

2.5 The needs of Gypsy/Travellers are also recognised in Scottish Government planning policy. For example, an equalities impact assessment conducted in relation to the 2016 report of the independent review of the Scottish planning system, recognised concerns about the extent to which Gypsy/Travellers' accommodation needs are being met. Current policy and guidance are also clear that housing strategies and development plans should be based on a robust housing need and demand assessment – including evidence on current provision and likely future need for sites for Gypsy/Travellers. Where there is evidence of such a need, Local Development Plans are expected to include suitable land allocation and consider the need for policies for private sites. Strategic Development Plans also have a role in cross-boundary consideration of needs for city regions – particularly important given Gypsy/Travellers' mobile lifestyle.

2.6 There is limited published data on the Gypsy/Traveller population to support these policy processes. The 2011 Census is the most current source of data on the size and profile of the population of Scotland, although this is likely to underestimate the Gypsy/Traveller population due to a range of issues such as reluctance of individuals to identify as Gypsy/Traveller and challenges accessing the population living on sites and by the roadside. Moreover, while local authorities hold a significant volume and range

of information on the provision of and need for Gypsy/Traveller accommodation, consistent national data has not been published since the last Twice-Yearly Count of Gypsy/Travellers undertaken in 2009.

Study objectives and approach

2.7 The overarching aim of the study was to provide a comprehensive picture of site accommodation for Gypsy/Travellers and encampment activity across Scotland. This was to include current public and private site provision, encampment activity, applications for planning permission for private Gypsy/Traveller sites in Scotland, and an account of reasons for sites being refused planning permission. The study did not include Gypsy/Travellers in settled housing.

2.8 The study involved a number of distinct data collection and analysis strands:

- Collection of local authority and Registered Social Landlord data on current public Gypsy/Traveller sites.
- An audit of planning application information published via e-planning to identify applications relating to private Gypsy/Traveller sites, and collection of local authority data on planning applications for private Gypsy/Traveller sites not published via e-planning.
- Engagement with local authorities to gather intelligence on currently active private Gypsy/Traveller sites across Scotland, cross-referenced with planning application information.
- Collection of local authority data on Gypsy/Traveller unauthorised encampments over the last three years.
- Triangulation of the results of data collection strands with published information on Gypsy/Travellers in Scotland. This included the Scottish Housing Regulator's 2018 publication Gypsy/Travellers' sites in Scotland: An update, and reports of Twice Yearly Counts of Gypsy/Travellers up to 2009.

2.9 We are grateful to local authorities and landlords for their support in providing this considerable range of inputs to the study. The exercise was able to collate information on public and private Gypsy/Traveller site provision across all local authority areas, and data on encampment activity across 27 of 32 local authority areas.

2.10 The report has been able to provide a comprehensive account of locally held data on Gypsy/Traveller sites and encampments in Scotland, however, it should be noted that some data gaps or under-reporting may remain. Anecdotal feedback indicates that this is most likely to relate to private Gypsy/Traveller and encampment activity. For example, feedback suggests that the report provides a comprehensive account of the more substantial private sites, however, it is possible that some of the smaller or single pitch sites have gone unrecorded by local authorities. Local authority data on unauthorised encampment activity is also dependent on reporting of encampments by Council officers, other agencies and local communities. Feedback indicates that encampments in more remote rural areas or less 'visible' locations may go unreported.

3 Public Gypsy/Traveller sites in Scotland

3.1 This section provides an overview of current public sites for Gypsy/Travellers provided by Councils and Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) across Scotland. Findings are based on data returns from local authorities and RSLs, and include comparison with previous data collection exercises where relevant. These include a data collection exercise by the Scottish Housing Regulator in early 2018⁴, the 2011 Census, and reports of the Twice-Yearly Count of Gypsy/Travellers up to July 2009 (the last Count).⁵

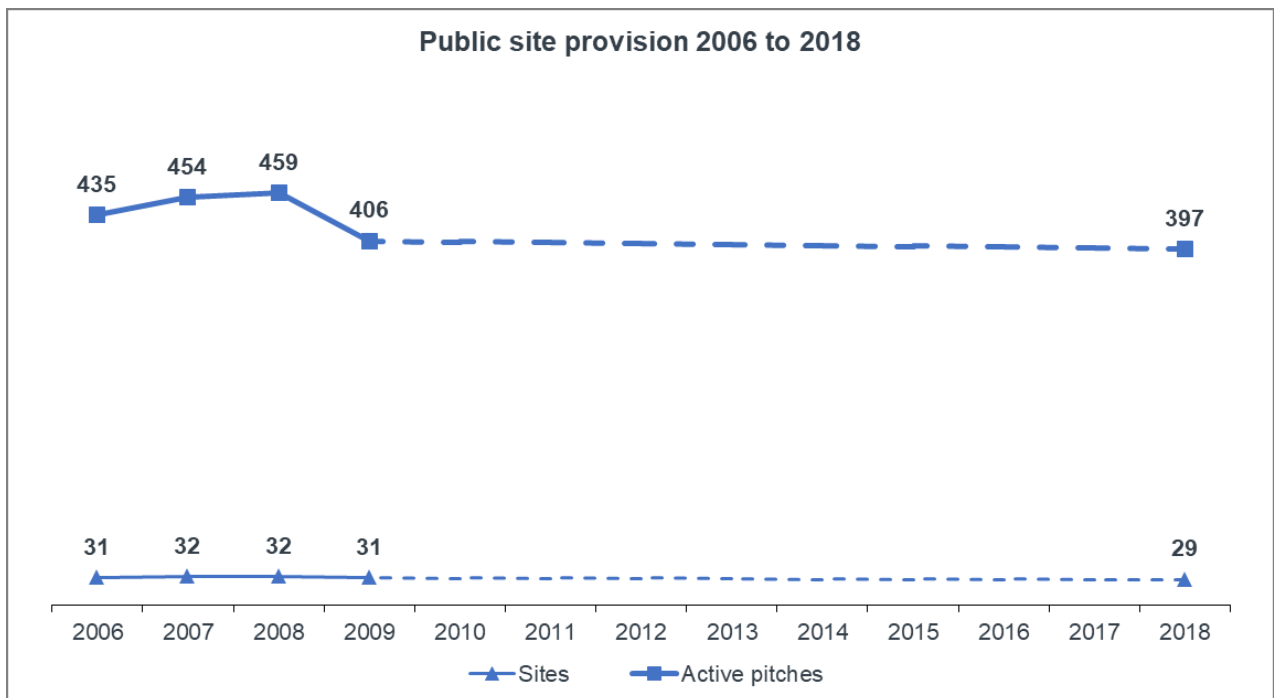
Overview of provision

3.2 Data returns identify a total of 29 public Gypsy/Traveller sites across Scotland. This represents a small reduction in site provision since 2009, where 31 active sites were recorded.

3.3 A total of 397 active pitches are provided across the 29 sites. This equates to an average of 13.7 pitches per site, although public sites vary considerably in size from 4 to 21 pitches.

3.4 The current supply of active pitches represents a reduction in public site provision of 62 pitches over the last ten years (a fall of -14% since 2008), although the supply of active pitches is largely unchanged since the 2009 Count. This change reflects a mix of changes in Gypsy/Traveller provision at a local authority level.

Figure 1: Public Gypsy/Traveller site provision 2006 to 2018



⁴ *Gypsy/Travellers' sites in Scotland: An update*, March 2018, Scottish Housing Regulator

⁵ *Gypsies/Travellers in Scotland: The Twice Yearly Count No. 16*, July 2009, Scottish Government

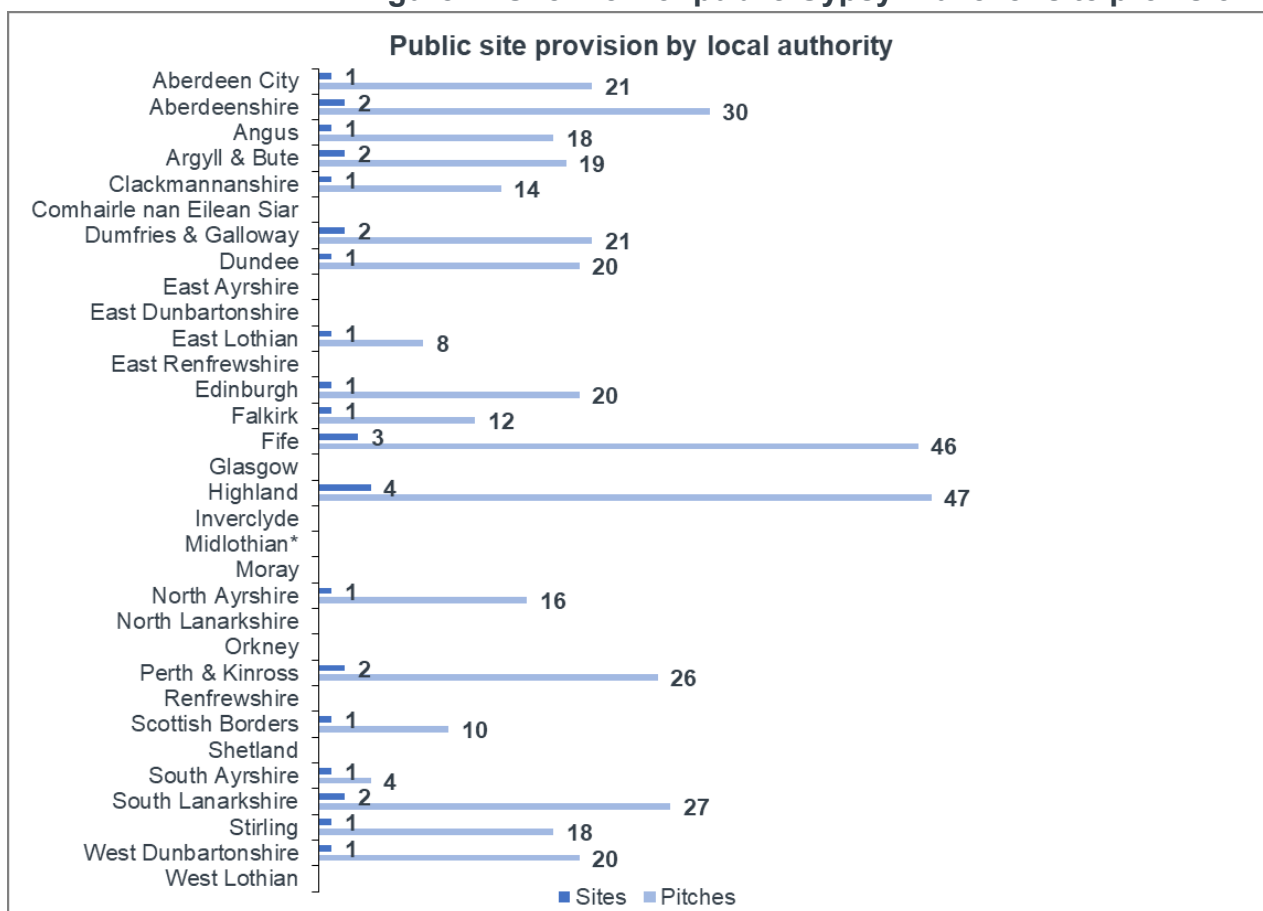
3.5 A total of 20 local authorities/RSLs provide one or more public Gypsy/Traveller sites; the remaining 12 local authority areas do not have any public Gypsy/Traveller site provision.⁶ Fife, Highland and Aberdeenshire report the largest public site provision, together accounting for nearly a third (31%) of all public site pitches across Scotland.

3.6 Data returns indicate a small number of changes in public site provision since the Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) report in March 2018, although the overall number of sites remains at 29. The main changes of note are:

- **Aberdeenshire.** An additional transit site at Aikey Brae has become operational since the SHR report, providing 10 pitches let on a temporary basis.
- **Argyll & Bute.** One public site at Torlochan is currently closed.
- **North Ayrshire.** The public site at Houdston has been out of operation since sustaining significant storm damage in 2015, with displaced residents having been accommodated on a temporary site. Work is currently ongoing to convert the temporary site to permanent provision.

3.7 The reduction in public site pitches since the 2008 Twice Yearly Count (a net loss of 62 pitches) also reflects several longer-term changes in provision. The most notable has been a reduction in supply across North Lanarkshire (of -20 pitches), West Lothian (-15), East Dunbartonshire (-15), East Lothian (-12), Argyll & Bute (-11) and Glasgow (-9 pitches).

Figure 2: Overview of public Gypsy/Traveller site provision



⁶ Note that East Lothian and Midlothian Councils share provision at a site in the East Lothian area.

Figure 3: Overview of public Gypsy/Traveller site provision

	Number of sites	Total active pitches	Avg pitches per site
SCOTLAND	29	397	13.7
Aberdeen City	1	21	21.0
Aberdeenshire	2	30	15.0
Angus	1	18	18.0
Argyll & Bute	2	19	9.5
Clackmannanshire	1	14	14.0
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	0	0	0
Dumfries & Galloway	2	21	10.5
Dundee	1	20	20.0
East Ayrshire	0	0	0
East Dunbartonshire	0	0	0
East Lothian	1	8	8.0
East Renfrewshire	0	0	0
Edinburgh	1	20	20.0
Falkirk	1	12	12.0
Fife	3	46	15.3
Glasgow	0	0	0
Highland	4	47	11.8
Inverclyde	0	0	0
Midlothian*	0*	0*	0*
Moray	0	0	0
North Ayrshire	1	16	16.0
North Lanarkshire	0	0	0
Orkney	0	0	0
Perth & Kinross	2	26	13.0
Renfrewshire	0	0	0
Scottish Borders	1	10	10.0
Shetland	0	0	0
South Ayrshire	1	4	4.0
South Lanarkshire	2	27	13.5
Stirling	1	18	18.0
West Dunbartonshire	1	20	20.0
West Lothian	0	0	0

* The public site in East Lothian is a shared service with Midlothian Council.

3.8 Map 1 over the page shows the 29 currently active public Gypsy/Traveller sites in Scotland.

Map 1: Public Gypsy/Traveller sites



Permanent and temporary pitch provision

3.9 Permanent pitches account for a large majority of current provision; 373 are currently let or are available to let, which is equivalent to 88% of all pitches (and 94% of active pitches). A total of 24 pitches are occupied or available for temporary use across Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Scottish Borders, equivalent to 6% of all pitches across Scotland. However, several other landlords noted that public site pitches can be made available for temporary occupancy where required. A total of 29 pitches are currently out of use for repair, refurbishment or other uses, equivalent to 7% of all public site pitches.

Figure 4: Public site permanent, temporary and inactive pitches

	Total pitches	Active pitches		Pitches out of use
		Permanent	Temporary	
SCOTLAND	426	373 (88%)	24 (6%)	29 (7%)
Aberdeen City	21	17	4	0
Aberdeenshire	30	20	10	0
Angus	18	18	0	0
Argyll & Bute	22	19	0	3
Clackmannanshire	16	14	0	2
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	0	0	0	0
Dumfries & Galloway	29	21	0	8
Dundee	21	20	0	1
East Ayrshire	0	0	0	0
East Dunbartonshire	0	0	0	0
East Lothian	12	8	0	4
East Renfrewshire	0	0	0	0
Edinburgh	20	20	0	0
Falkirk	15	12	0	3
Fife	50	46	0	4
Glasgow	0	0	0	0
Highland	47	47	0	0
Inverclyde	0	0	0	0
Midlothian*	0*	0	0	0
Moray	0	0	0	0
North Ayrshire	16	16	0	0
North Lanarkshire	0	0	0	0
Orkney	0	0	0	0
Perth & Kinross	26	26	0	0
Renfrewshire	0	0	0	0
Scottish Borders	10	0	10	0
Shetland	0	0	0	0
South Ayrshire	8	4	0	4
South Lanarkshire	27	27	0	0
Stirling	18	18	0	0
West Dunbartonshire	20	20	0	0
West Lothian	0	0	0	0

* The public site in East Lothian is a shared service with Midlothian Council.

Site occupancy

3.10 Landlords report a total of 351 pitches as currently let. This compares to 259 Gypsy/ Traveller households identified by the 2011 Census as living in caravan or mobile accommodation, suggesting the 2011 Census may have under-counted Gypsy/Travellers living on public sites. Occupied pitches do not necessarily equate to households, with historical data from the Twice-Yearly Count indicating numbers of Gypsy/Traveller households on public sites equates to between 0.8 and 0.9 per occupied pitch. This suggests that the 2011 Census may have under-counted households on public Gypsy/Traveller sites by between 20 and 60 households (8-18% of the total).

3.11 The 351 let pitches is equivalent to an average occupancy rate of 88%. Levels of site occupancy vary significantly across local authority areas; 16 of the 29 sites report 100% occupancy, while 5 sites report occupancy of less than 70% (and 2 sites of less than 50% occupancy). Sites with lower occupancy include those across Aberdeenshire, Dundee, East/Midlothian and Fife.

3.12 Public site occupancy levels also appear to have increased over time. The 88% occupancy is slightly higher than that reported in the last Twice-Yearly Count (85% at 2009) and compares to occupancy rates of 75-80% between 2006 and 2008.

Figure 5: Public site occupancy 2006 to 2018

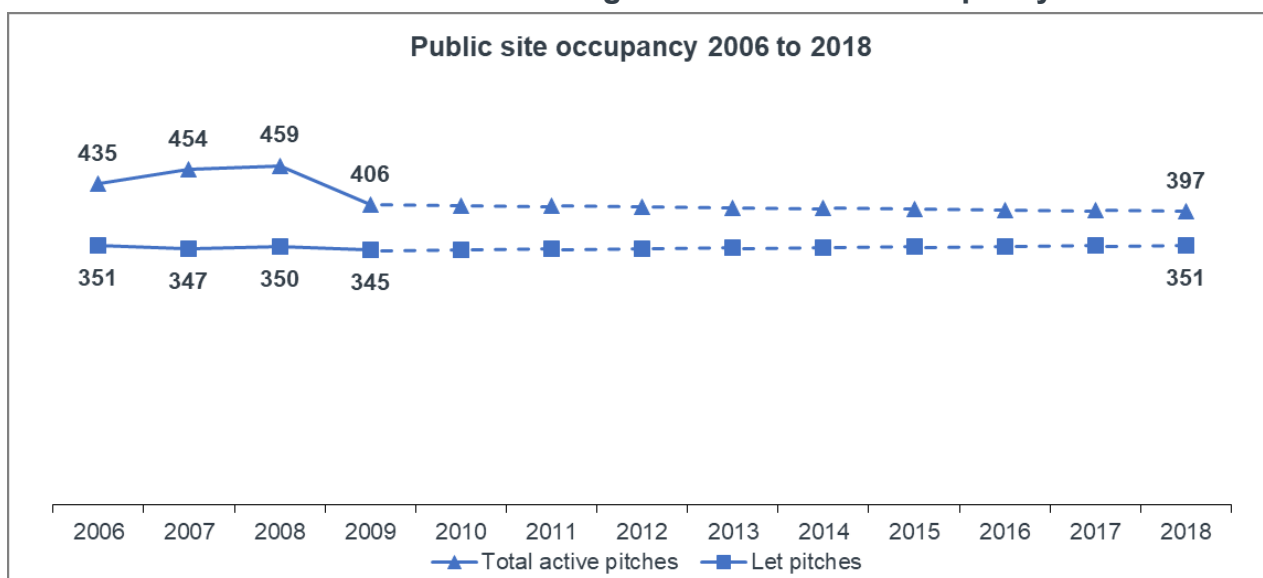


Figure 6: Public site pitch occupancy

	Total active pitches	Let pitches	Occupancy rate
SCOTLAND	397	351	88%
Aberdeen City	21	21	100%
Aberdeenshire	30	16	53%
Angus	18	18	100%
Argyll & Bute	19	18	95%
Clackmannanshire	14	12	86%
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	0	0	0
Dumfries & Galloway	21	14	67%
Dundee	20	13	65%
East Ayrshire	0	0	0
East Dunbartonshire	0	0	0
East Lothian	8	5	63%
East Renfrewshire	0	0	0
Edinburgh	20	18	90%
Falkirk	12	11	92%
Fife	46	40	87%
Glasgow	0	0	0
Highland	47	47	100%
Inverclyde	0	0	0
Midlothian*	0*	0	0
Moray	0	0	0
North Ayrshire	16	16	100%
North Lanarkshire	0	0	0
Orkney	0	0	0
Perth & Kinross	26	26	100%
Renfrewshire	0	0	0
Scottish Borders	10	7	70%
Shetland	0	0	0
South Ayrshire	4	4	100%
South Lanarkshire	27	27	100%
Stirling	18	18	100%
West Dunbartonshire	20	20	100%
West Lothian	0	0	0

* The public site in East Lothian is a shared service with Midlothian Council.

3.13 Data returns indicate that a large majority of public site tenants have occupied their pitches for six months or more; 83%, including 61% with tenancies of two years or more. A total of 60 tenancies started within the last 6 months, equivalent to 17% of all let pitches (and 15% of all active pitches).

Figure 7: Public site length of tenancy

	Total let pitches	Length of tenancy		
		0-6 months	6-24 months	2+ years
SCOTLAND	351	60 (17%)	76 (22%)	215 (61%)
Aberdeen City	21	4	1	16
Aberdeenshire	16	16	0	0
Angus	18	0	1	17
Argyll & Bute	18	3	4	11
Clackmannanshire	12	0	2	10
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	0	0	0	0
Dumfries & Galloway	14	4	2	8
Dundee	13	3	9	1
East Ayrshire	0	0	0	0
East Dunbartonshire	0	0	0	0
East Lothian	5	1	0	4
East Renfrewshire	0	0	0	0
Edinburgh	18	0	5	13
Falkirk	11	1	7	3
Fife	40	2	12	26
Glasgow	0	0	0	0
Highland	47	5	13	29
Inverclyde	0	0	0	0
Midlothian*	0*	0	0	0
Moray	0	0	0	0
North Ayrshire	16	2	7	7
North Lanarkshire	0	0	0	0
Orkney	0	0	0	0
Perth & Kinross	26	2	2	22
Renfrewshire	0	0	0	0
Scottish Borders	7	7	0	0
Shetland	0	0	0	0
South Ayrshire	4	0	0	4
South Lanarkshire	27	2	2	23
Stirling	18	8	6	4
West Dunbartonshire	20	0	3	17
West Lothian	0	0	0	0

* The public site in East Lothian is a shared service with Midlothian Council.

Waiting list demand

3.14 Of the 19 landlords providing public Gypsy/Traveller sites, 12 reported having current waiting list applicants and/or had to turn away Gypsy/Travellers within the last year who were looking for site accommodation. A total of 90 households are currently registered on public site waiting lists, including 44 having joined a waiting list in the last year. A further 9 households had been unable to access a site pitch in the last year but did not join a waiting list.

3.15 This level of waiting list demand compares to a total of 88 public site pitches being let within the last year. This suggests it would be theoretically possible for most current waiting list demand to be occupied by public sites within a year. However there appears to be some mismatch between waiting list demand and supply of pitches. For example, several local authority areas with current waiting list demand report a very limited supply of pitches within the last year (most notably Angus, Edinburgh and South Lanarkshire). It should also be noted that anecdotal feedback from landlords indicates that the expression of waiting list demand can be influenced by a range of factors, including occupancy rates – for example, households may not approach landlords if they are aware that vacancies are unlikely to arise.

Figure 8: Public site waiting list demand (local authority areas with sites)

	Current waiting list	Time on list		Turned away in last year
		Up to 12 months	More than 12 months	
SCOTLAND	90	44	46	9
Aberdeen City	7	7	0	2
Aberdeenshire	0	0	0	0
Angus	10	0	10	0
Argyll & Bute	3	2	1	0
Clackmannanshire	0	0	0	0
Dumfries & Galloway	6	6	0	2
Dundee	0	0	0	0
East Lothian	0	0	0	1
Edinburgh	7	7	0	0
Falkirk	0	0	0	0
Fife	16	5	11	0
Highland	0	0	0	0
North Ayrshire	7	4	3	1
Perth & Kinross	10	4	6	0
Scottish Borders	3	3	0	3
South Ayrshire	0	0	0	0
South Lanarkshire	19	5	14	0
Stirling	0	0	0	0
West Dunbartonshire	2	1	1	0

4 Private Gypsy/Traveller sites in Scotland

4.1 This section provides an overview of currently active private Gypsy/Travellers sites across Scotland. Findings are based on data returns from local authorities, triangulated with information on sites with planning approval published via e-planning. Where relevant, we also include comparison with data previously published via the Twice-Yearly Counts of Gypsy/Travellers up to July 2009.⁷

Overview of provision

4.2 Local authority returns identify a total of 25 active private Gypsy/Traveller sites across Scotland. This represents a small increase from the 22 private sites reported by the last Twice-Yearly Count in 2009.

4.3 The 25 active private sites provide a total of 216 pitches, equivalent to an average of around 9 pitches per site. This is somewhat smaller than the average of 13.7 pitches per public site, although informal feedback from local authorities indicates that private sites are similar to public provision in terms of their variable size (from single pitch sites to 30 or more pitches).

4.4 Active private Gypsy/Traveller sites are located across 9 local authority areas; Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Dumfries & Galloway, East Ayrshire, Falkirk, Fife, Moray, Perth & Kinross and Stirling. Falkirk, Fife, Aberdeenshire and Perth & Kinross report the largest supply of private Gypsy/Traveller pitches; these are the only areas reporting multiple private sites, and together account for more than 80% of all private site pitches.

4.5 It is notable that the local authority areas with private site provision are relatively rural in nature, with 6 of the 9 having a substantially larger proportion of the population living in areas classified as 'accessible rural' or 'remote rural'.⁸ As Map 2 shows, the majority of private site provision is in the centre and east of the country, with only East Ayrshire and Dumfries & Galloway reporting private site provision in the west of Scotland. Data gathered through the current study indicates that private sites in South Lanarkshire recorded by previous data collection exercises have all closed or changed use, such that local authority records indicate there is no currently active private site provision in the area.

⁷ *Gypsies/Travellers in Scotland: The Twice Yearly Count No. 16*, July 2009, Scottish Government

⁸ Based on the Scottish Government Urban Rural Classification <https://www.gov.scot/UrbanRural>

Figure 9: Overview of private Gypsy/Traveller site provision

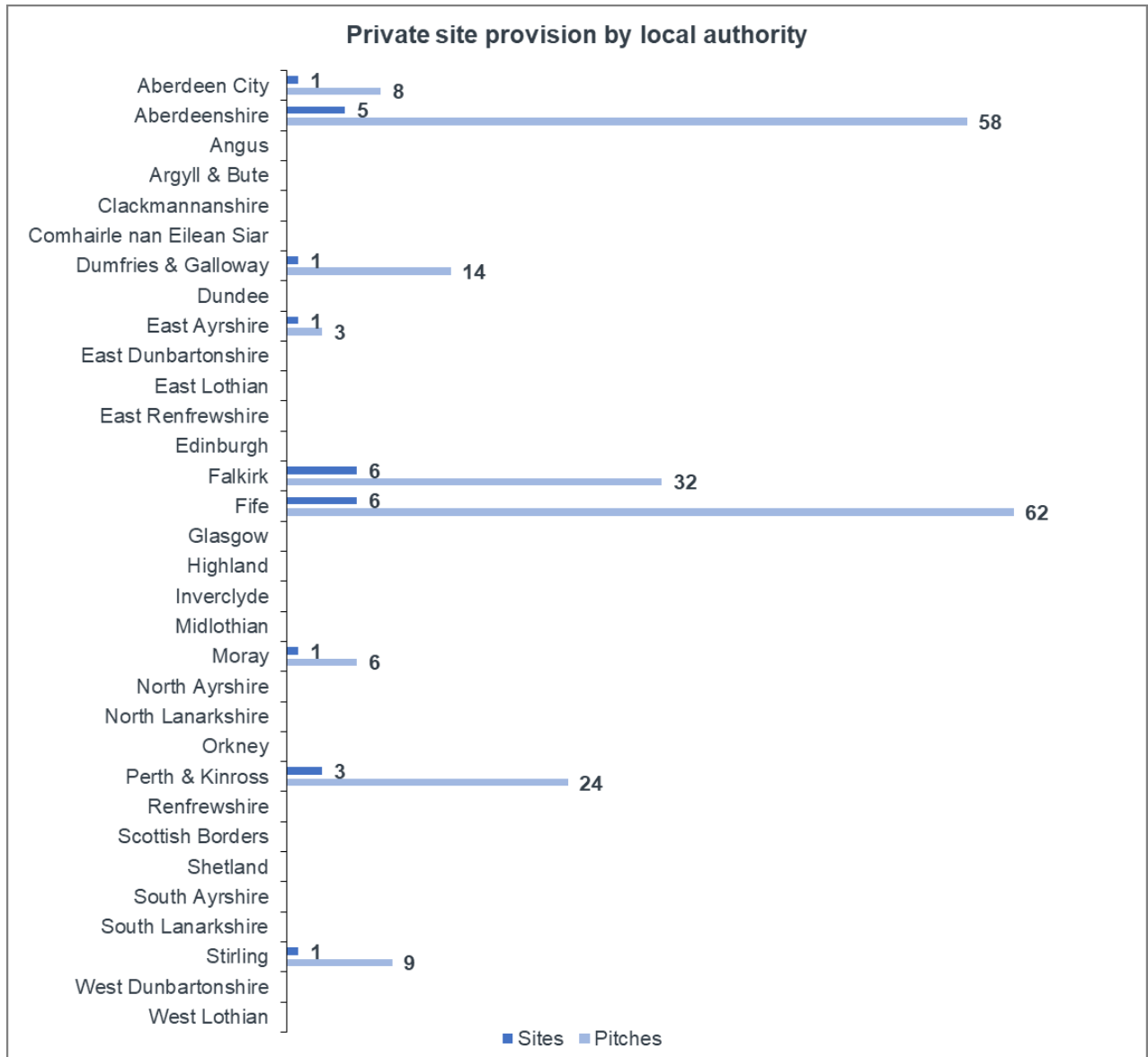


Figure 10: Overview of private Gypsy/Traveller site provision

	Number of sites	Total pitches	Avg pitches per site
SCOTLAND	25	216	8.6
Aberdeen City	1	8	8.0
Aberdeenshire	5	58	11.6
Angus	0	0	0
Argyll & Bute	0	0	0
Clackmannanshire	0	0	0
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	0	0	0
Dumfries & Galloway	1	14	14.0
Dundee	0	0	0
East Ayrshire	1	3	3.0
East Dunbartonshire	0	0	0
East Lothian	0	0	0
East Renfrewshire	0	0	0
Edinburgh	0	0	0
Falkirk	6	32	5.3
Fife	6	62	10.3
Glasgow	0	0	0
Highland	0	0	0
Inverclyde	0	0	0
Midlothian	0	0	0
Moray	1	6	6.0
North Ayrshire	0	0	0
North Lanarkshire	0	0	0
Orkney	0	0	0
Perth & Kinross	3	24	8.0
Renfrewshire	0	0	0
Scottish Borders	0	0	0
Shetland	0	0	0
South Ayrshire	0	0	0
South Lanarkshire	0	0	0
Stirling	1	9	9.0
West Dunbartonshire	0	0	0
West Lothian	0	0	0

4.6 Map 2 over the page shows the 25 currently active private Gypsy/Traveller sites in Scotland.

Map 2: Private Gypsy/Traveller sites



Permanent and temporary pitch provision

4.7 Private Gypsy/Traveller site provision is similar in profile to public sites, being dominated by permanent pitches. Around 9 in 10 (91%) private site pitches are let on a permanent basis, while 9% are temporary lets (all private temporary pitch provision is in the Aberdeenshire area). However, it should be noted that local authority records are unlikely to include details of any short-term or informal arrangements between site owners and individual households.

Figure 11: Private site permanent and temporary pitches

	Total pitches	Permanent pitches	Temporary pitches
SCOTLAND	216	196 (91%)	20 (9%)
Aberdeen City	8	8	0
Aberdeenshire	58	38	20
Angus	0	0	0
Argyll & Bute	0	0	0
Clackmannanshire	0	0	0
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	0	0	0
Dumfries & Galloway	14	14	0
Dundee	0	0	0
East Ayrshire	3	3	0
East Dunbartonshire	0	0	0
East Lothian	0	0	0
East Renfrewshire	0	0	0
Edinburgh	0	0	0
Falkirk	32	32	0
Fife	62	62	0
Glasgow	0	0	0
Highland	0	0	0
Inverclyde	0	0	0
Midlothian	0	0	0
Moray	6	6	0
North Ayrshire	0	0	0
North Lanarkshire	0	0	0
Orkney	0	0	0
Perth & Kinross	24	24	0
Renfrewshire	0	0	0
Scottish Borders	0	0	0
Shetland	0	0	0
South Ayrshire	0	0	0
South Lanarkshire	0	0	0
Stirling	9	9	0
West Dunbartonshire	0	0	0
West Lothian	0	0	0

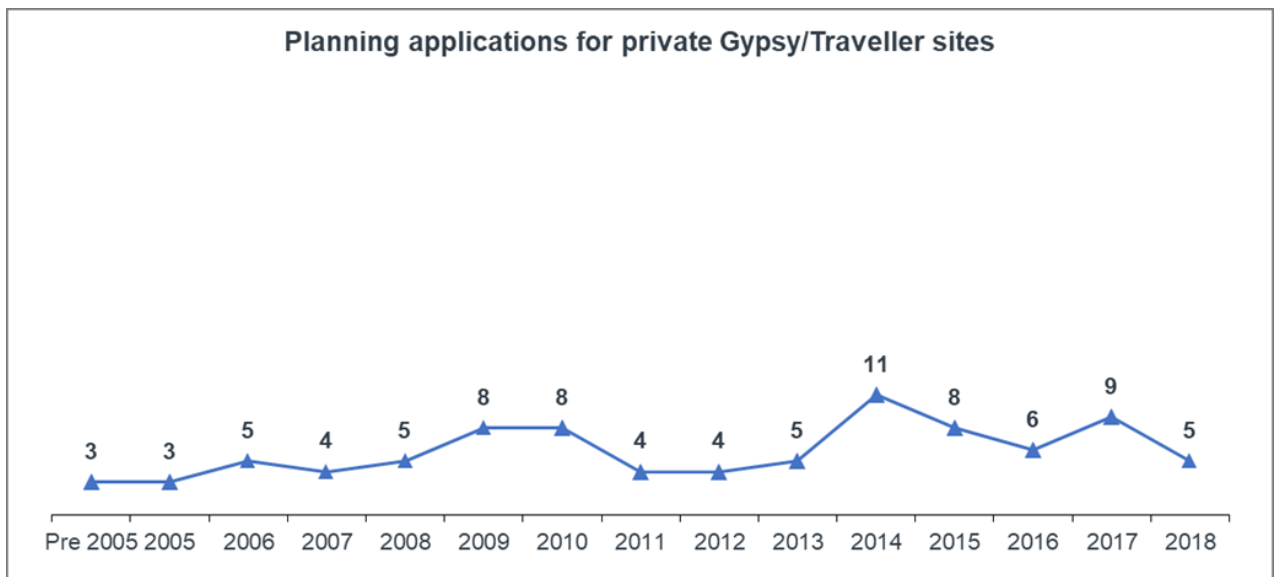
5 Planning applications for private Gypsy/Traveller sites

5.1 This section provides an overview of planning applications for private Gypsy/Traveller sites across Scotland over the last 10-15 years. Findings are based on information published via e-planning, cross-referenced with local authority records to maximise coverage of Gypsy/Traveller-related planning applications.

Overview of planning application activity

5.2 The study has identified a total of 88 planning applications for private Gypsy/Traveller sites across Scotland. This includes applications over the period 1992 to 2018, although the great majority are from 2005 to 2018 (85 of 88).⁹ Over this period local authorities received an average of 6 planning applications for Gypsy/Traveller sites per year. While application numbers have fluctuated from year to year, there does not appear to have been a consistent upward or downward trend over the period.

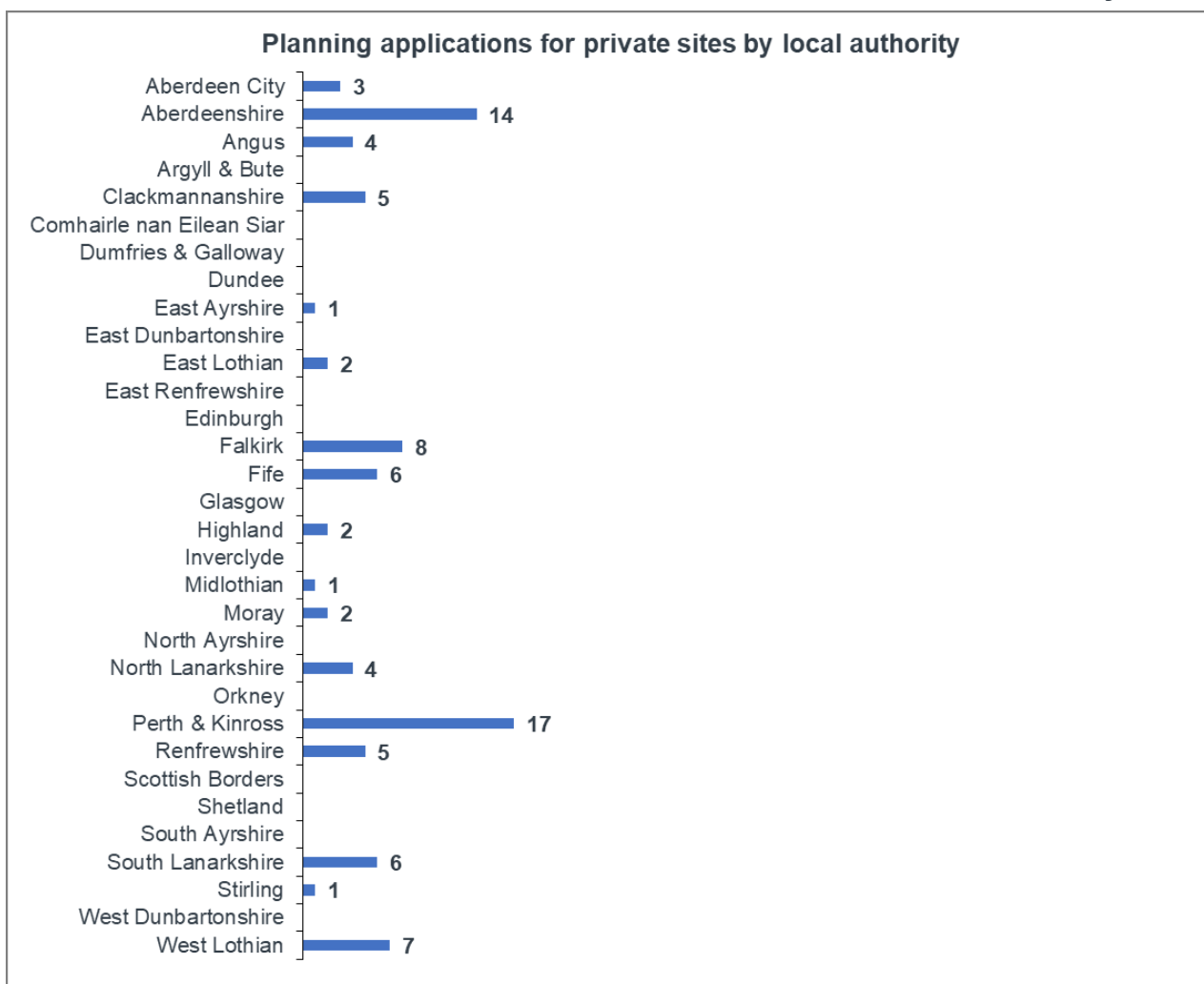
Figure 12: Planning applications for private Gypsy/Traveller sites time series



⁹ While the study engaged with local authorities to access information on planning applications for Gypsy/Traveller sites received prior to 2005, the small number of applications recorded may in part reflect changes in recording practices and limitations on access to data, rather than a significant change in the number of applications received.

5.3 Seventeen local authorities record one or more planning applications for Gypsy/Traveller sites; the remaining 15 local authority areas do not record any applications.¹⁰ Most authorities have received a relatively small number of planning applications for Gypsy/Traveller sites, with 11 authorities reporting 5 or fewer applications. However, a small number of authorities report larger numbers of applications, most notably Aberdeenshire (14 applications) and Perth & Kinross (17 applications) which together account for more than a third of all applications received. It is notable that these are both largely rural authority areas, and mapping of planning applications for Gypsy/Traveller sites indicates that the great majority are in areas classified as ‘accessible rural’ or ‘remote rural’.¹¹ As noted later, the rural profile of proposed sites is also reflected in some of the reasons for planning applications being refused, and the conditions applied where applications are approved.

Figure 13: Planning applications for private Gypsy/Traveller sites by local authority area



¹⁰ The study also confirmed that the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park Authority had not received any planning applications for private Gypsy/Traveller sites.

¹¹ Based on the Scottish Government Urban Rural Classification <https://www.gov.scot/UrbanRural>

5.4 Available information indicates that most applications are for relatively small Gypsy/Traveller sites. Around two thirds of applications (57 of the 85 for which information is available) are for sites of fewer than five pitches, including 14 applications for single pitch sites. However, several applications are recorded for larger sites; 9 applications propose sites of ten or more pitches, including 2 for sites of more than 20 pitches. Consistent with the geographic distribution of other proposals, all applications for larger sites are in areas classified as ‘accessible rural’ or ‘remote rural’, although 4 of the 9 applications for larger sites are adjacent to small towns or urban areas.

5.5 Planning records include a range of detail on applications for private Gypsy/Traveller sites, but do not provide information that can support quantitative analysis of the profile of proposals (other than the location and size information presented above). Published records do indicate that sites typically comprise a relatively small number of pitches, each with space for chalet and touring caravans, vehicle parking, and an amenity block. However, proposals are also diverse in terms of the number of pitches to be provided (as noted above), the associated infrastructure requirements, landscaping proposals, and other facilities to be provided on site.

5.6 Below we provide an outline of several applications to illustrate this profile. These include a mix of smaller and larger sites, proposals approved at the initial application stage, approved on appeal, and refused applications.

Planning application: approved

Application date: March 2012
Decision date: October 2013
Appeal decision date: N/A

Proposal for the formation of 5 permanent Gypsy/Traveller pitches in an accessible rural area, on a former waste disposal site adjoining agricultural land. Proposed pitch layout included space for a chalet-type unit, up to 2 touring caravans and an amenity block to each pitch. The proposed site also included provision for a horse paddock.

A total of 44 representations were received to the applications, the great majority objecting to proposals.

The application was approved at the initial application stage, subject to conditions relating to approval of plans for waste and surface water drainage, provision of water supply, adequate vehicular access and parking, restrictions on noise generation, and approval of landscaping plans.

Planning application: refused

Application date: March 2010
Decision date: March 2011
Appeal decision date: August 2011

Proposal for formation of 6 permanent Gypsy/Traveller pitches in an accessible rural area. Proposed pitch layout included space for a chalet-type unit, up to 2 touring caravans, an amenity block to each pitch, and parking for 3 vehicles. The site plan also included stables adjacent to one pitch.

A total of 10 representations were received to the applications, all objecting to proposals.

The application was refused at the initial application stage. Reasoning included reference to the proposal being contrary to LDP policy relating to development in areas designated as ‘countryside around towns’, and the adverse visual impact within a countryside area.

An appeal was refused on the basis that the adverse impact on the rural environment outweighed the potential benefits of additional accommodation provision.

Planning application: approved on appeal

Application date: April 2010

Decision date: March 2011

Appeal decision date: January 2012

A proposal for change of use of disused agricultural land to form 5 permanent Gypsy/Traveller pitches in an accessible small town. Proposed pitch layout included space for a chalet-type unit, up to 2 touring caravans, an amenity block and parking for 3 vehicles.

A total of 280 representations were received to the planning applications, the great majority objecting to the proposal.

The application was refused at the initial application stage. Reasoning included reference to proposals being contrary to LDP policies regarding development in an area designated as of 'landscape significance' and 'undeveloped coast', and to proposals constituting inappropriate development in a rural area.

An appeal of the initial decision was successful, with planning permission granted subject to several conditions. These included conditions of local authority approval of materials used in the external finish, approval of a detailed landscaping plan, and limiting the hours of commercial deliveries and operation.

Planning application: approved on appeal

Application date: October 2014

Decision date: February 2016

Appeal decision date: November 2016

Proposal for change of use of agricultural land to form 4 permanent Gypsy/Traveller pitches in an accessible rural area adjacent to an urban area. The site had previously been used as an agricultural steading. Proposed pitch layout included space for a chalet-type unit, up to 2 touring caravans and an amenity block to each pitch. The proposal also included provision for storage of commercial vehicles and materials within a designated area.

A total of 45 representations were received to the applications, the great majority objecting to proposals.

The application was refused at the initial application stage. Reasoning included reference to business use being contrary to policies for the countryside location, and to the potential for proposals to generate additional pedestrian crossing of the public road. Published reports also indicate that the retrospective nature of the application was a factor in the decision to refuse permission.

An appeal of the initial decision was successful, with planning permission granted subject to conditions. These included conditions that each pitch is occupied by a single Gypsy/Traveller household, and conditions relating to access, lighting and landscaping, and to ensure the main use of the site remains for residential caravan accommodation.

Outcome of planning applications

5.7 Of the 88 planning applications recorded, 35 (40%) were approved at the initial application stage. A total of 34 applications (39%) were refused at the application stage – we provide an overview of the reasons recorded for refusal of these applications later in this section. The remaining applications included 6 where a decision is still pending (7%), 1 called in by Scottish Ministers, and 12 withdrawn (14%).

Figure 14: Outcome at initial planning application stage

	Total	Approved	Pending	Refused	Called in	Withdrawn
SCOTLAND	88	35 (40%)	6 (7%)	34 (39%)	1 (1%)	12 (14%)
Aberdeen City	3	1	0	2	0	0
Aberdeenshire	14	2	0	6	1	5
Angus	4	1	0	3	0	0
Argyll & Bute	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clackmannanshire	5	2	0	2	0	1
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dumfries & Galloway	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dundee	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Ayrshire	1	0	1	0	0	0
East Dunbartonshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Lothian	2	1	0	1	0	0
East Renfrewshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Edinburgh	0	0	0	0	0	0
Falkirk	8	4	0	4	0	0
Fife	6	5	0	1	0	0
Glasgow	0	0	0	0	0	0
Highland	2	1	0	0	0	1
Inverclyde	0	0	0	0	0	0
Midlothian	1	0	0	0	0	1
Moray	2	0	0	2	0	0
North Ayrshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Lanarkshire	4	3	0	1	0	0
Orkney	0	0	0	0	0	0
Perth & Kinross	17	5	2	7	0	3
Renfrewshire	5	0	2	3	0	0
Scottish Borders	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shetland	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Ayrshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Lanarkshire	6	4	1	0	0	1
Stirling	1	0	0	1	0	0
West Dunbartonshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Lothian	7	6	0	1	0	0

5.8 Of the 34 cases refused at the application stage, 29 proceeded to appeal; this represents 85% of refused applications and 33% of all applications recorded. The majority of applications going to appeal were approved, 18 cases equating to 62% of appeals (and 53% of cases refused at the application stage). In the remaining 11 appeals the initial refusal decision was upheld.

Figure 15: Appeals of refused applications

	Total applications	Appeals (% of applications)	Approved (% of appeals)
SCOTLAND	88	29 (33%)	18 (62%)
Aberdeen City	3	2	2
Aberdeenshire	14	5	2
Angus	4	3	1
Argyll & Bute	0	0	0
Clackmannanshire	5	2	1
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	0	0	0
Dumfries & Galloway	0	0	0
Dundee	0	0	0
East Ayrshire	1	0	0
East Dunbartonshire	0	0	0
East Lothian	2	1	1
East Renfrewshire	0	0	0
Edinburgh	0	0	0
Falkirk	8	4	3
Fife	6	0	0
Glasgow	0	0	0
Highland	2	0	0
Inverclyde	0	0	0
Midlothian*	1	0	0
Moray	2	2	1
North Ayrshire	0	0	0
North Lanarkshire	4	1	1
Orkney	0	0	0
Perth & Kinross	17	4	4
Renfrewshire	5	3	0
Scottish Borders	0	0	0
Shetland	0	0	0
South Ayrshire	0	0	0
South Lanarkshire	6	0	0
Stirling	1	1	1
West Dunbartonshire	0	0	0
West Lothian	7	1	1

5.9 Map 3 shows locations that have been the subject of planning applications for private Gypsy/Traveller sites in Scotland, identifying applications approved at the application stage or on appeal, applications where a decision is pending, and applications that have been refused or withdrawn.

Map 3: Planning applications for private Gypsy/Traveller sites



Approved planning applications

5.10 The 53 approved planning applications for Gypsy/Traveller sites represent 60% of all applications recorded. These include 35 approved at the initial application stage, and 18 approved on appeal after being refused at initial application. Approved applications propose to provide a total of more than 200 private site pitches, equivalent to an average of around 4 pitches per site although proposals range from single pitch to 16 pitch sites.

5.11 The study considered information provided by authorities on conditions applied to these approved planning applications. Decision notices are not published in all cases, but information on planning conditions was available for 43 of the 53 approved applications.

5.12 These cases indicate that conditions most commonly relate to restrictions on site occupancy and use, landscaping of sites and screening to mitigate visual impact, foul and surface water drainage, and vehicular access arrangements:

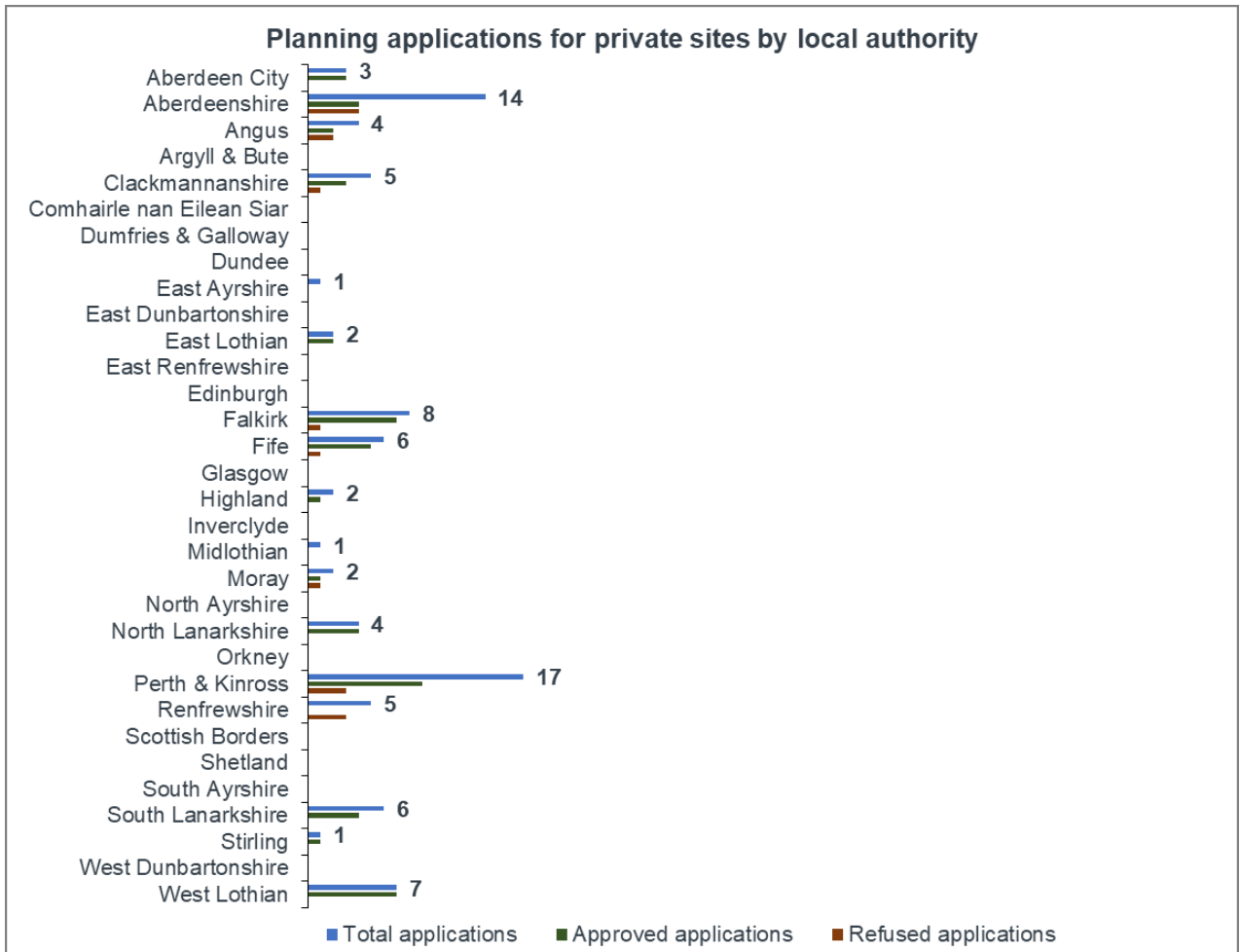
- Site occupancy and use. In 34 of 43 cases, planning permission was granted with conditions relating to site occupancy and use. These conditions most commonly specified that the site is used only by Gypsy/Traveller households; this condition was applied to 22 approved applications, including 11 where conditions required that the site is used only by the applicant and their family. In addition, in 20 cases conditions were applied limiting the number of caravans on site at any one time, and/or limiting the length of time that ancillary caravans or units can be occupied. In terms of site use, 9 approvals specified that sites were for residential use only, and 5 placed limits on business activity and/or storage of scrap or commercial materials on site.
- Landscaping and screening of sites was specified as a condition for 31 of 43 approved applications. This was most commonly requiring local authority approval of a detailed site landscaping plan and planting scheme, although in several cases conditions were set relating to site boundaries and screening to mitigate visual impact.
- Foul and surface water drainage was referenced in conditions for 18 of 43 approved applications. This typically required applicants to submit a detailed drainage plan for approval, although in 6 cases conditions also placed specific requirements in relation to the water supply and/or sewage treatment.
- Vehicular access arrangements and parking. Conditions relating to access and parking were applied to 17 of 43 approved applications. This included requirements that access arrangements are approved by authorities, requirements for the upgrade of access, and provision of parking arrangements and turning spaces.

- Other conditions were applied to 21 of 43 approved applications, and related to varying aspects of approved proposals. This included 12 cases requiring approval of refuse storage arrangements, 4 requiring approval of development materials, finish and/or colour scheme, 4 requiring assessment and remediation of any contamination, 4 requiring approval of external lighting, and 3 referring to compliance with noise regulations.

Figure 16: Determination of planning applications

	Total applications received	Initial applications approved	Approved on appeal	Refused, withdrawn or pending
SCOTLAND	88	35 (40%)	18 (20%)	35 (40%)
Aberdeen City	3	1	2	0
Aberdeenshire	14	2	2	10
Angus	4	1	1	2
Argyll & Bute	0	0	0	0
Clackmannanshire	5	2	1	2
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	0	0	0	0
Dumfries & Galloway	0	0	0	0
Dundee	0	0	0	0
East Ayrshire	1	0	0	1
East Dunbartonshire	0	0	0	0
East Lothian	2	1	1	0
East Renfrewshire	0	0	0	0
Edinburgh	0	0	0	0
Falkirk	8	4	3	1
Fife	6	5	0	1
Glasgow	0	0	0	0
Highland	2	1	0	1
Inverclyde	0	0	0	0
Midlothian*	1	0	0	1
Moray	2	0	1	1
North Ayrshire	0	0	0	0
North Lanarkshire	4	3	1	0
Orkney	0	0	0	0
Perth & Kinross	17	5	4	8
Renfrewshire	5	0	0	5
Scottish Borders	0	0	0	0
Shetland	0	0	0	0
South Ayrshire	0	0	0	0
South Lanarkshire	6	4	0	2
Stirling	1	0	1	0
West Dunbartonshire	0	0	0	0
West Lothian	7	6	1	0

Figure 17: Determined planning applications



Refused planning applications

5.13 As noted earlier, 34 planning applications for Gypsy/Traveller sites were refused at the application stage, with 16 of these refusals remaining unchallenged by the applicant, being upheld at appeal or subject to an as-yet-unresolved appeal. Refused applications were broadly similar to all applications in terms of their proposed size, although all were for sites providing fewer than 10 pitches.

5.14 The study considered the reasoning provided by planning authorities for refused applications to provide further detail on the range of factors contributing to refusal of planning permission for these cases. Decision notices are not published for all refused applications, but information on reasons for refusal was available for 28 of the 34 private site applications refused at the application stage (with 5 of these cases including further decision notices related to refused appeals).

5.15 Published decision notices indicate that reasons for refusal most commonly relate to proposals being contrary to the Local Development Plan and Strategic Development Plan policies. This included some which noted that material considerations in favour of proposals (most commonly an identified need for Gypsy/Traveller accommodation) were insufficient to outweigh these points. LDP and SDP policies were cited as a key reason for refusal for 20 of the 28 applications for which information is available, most frequently with reference to proposals having an

adverse impact on the character of the area. This included reference to adverse impact on countryside settings and failing to meet policy criteria for development of agricultural land, but also to designation of landscape value such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, 'areas of landscape significance', 'undeveloped coast' or 'countryside around towns'. Other reference to LDP and SDP policies included proposals being contrary to countryside development policies, to applicants having failed to demonstrate a need for additional Gypsy/Traveller provision, to a proposed business use being contrary to policies on the countryside location, and one case where development of Gypsy/Traveller sites is not permitted within established residential areas.

5.16 Decision notices also highlight a range of other reasons for refusal of planning permission for Gypsy/Traveller sites. These are summarised below.

- Impact on local character was cited as a reason for 17 of 28 refusals. This was most commonly in relation to the impact of proposals on the local natural environment (14 of the 17 cases), and primarily the potential negative visual impact in countryside areas. Several of these reasonings noted that insufficient landscaping or planting had been proposed to mitigate the visual impact of development. A number of notices also made reference to potential detrimental impact on the amenity enjoyed by neighbouring residents (7 cases). This included reference to the proximity of proposed sites to established communities, and the extent to which proposals would integrate with the local built environment.
- Infrastructure and access to amenities. Six applications were refused with reference to their impact on local infrastructure and facilities, and potential for development to lead to increased car use and/or more pedestrians (including a small number noting that Gypsy/Traveller sites could require more use of larger or commercial vehicles). This included reference to inadequate or substandard local road infrastructure and/or site access, poor access to public transport, and limited pedestrian routes.
- Drainage and flooding. Five applications were refused due to inadequate or unclear proposals for drainage and water connections. This included 3 where reference was made to the proposed site being at substantial risk of fluvial flooding.
- Other reasons for refusal. These included reference to applicants having failed to demonstrate a need for additional Gypsy/Traveller provision, to insufficient clarity regarding site layout and use, to potentially adverse environmental impact (including risk of water contamination), to waste having been already deposited on the proposed site, and to the applicant failing to demonstrate that the site had been permanently used as a Gypsy/Traveller pitch for a 10 year period prior to submission of the planning application.

6 Unauthorised Gypsy/Traveller encampments

6.1 This section provides an overview of unauthorised Gypsy/Traveller encampment activity across Scotland over the last three years.¹²

6.2 Unauthorised encampments are typically the result of Gypsy/Travellers stopping for a short period when travelling through or visiting an area. Encampments vary in size from small family groups (typically 1-2 vans) to larger groups of up to 20+ vans. Locations used also vary considerably, and can include open ground in rural locations or within/adjacent to towns, industrial locations, and retail or business parks.

6.3 Findings are based on data returns from local authorities, and include comparison with data previously published via the Twice-Yearly Counts of Gypsy/Travellers up to July 2009¹³. As is noted in section 1, local authority data on unauthorised encampment activity is largely based on reporting of encampments by Council officers, other agencies and local communities. As such, it is difficult to assess the extent to which data provides a comprehensive account of encampment activity. For example, anecdotal evidence indicates that local authorities are more likely to be made aware of larger encampments and/or those in more 'visible' locations, but that encampments in more remote rural areas may go unreported.

6.4 For the current exercise, there are also several local authority areas where data on unauthorised encampments was not available (Angus, Clackmannanshire, Dumfries & Galloway, North Lanarkshire, West Lothian). Historical data from the Twice-Yearly Count indicates the most significant gaps are the Angus, Dumfries & Galloway and North Lanarkshire areas.

Encampment activity

6.5 Local authority returns identify a total of 406 discreet locations across Scotland used for unauthorised Gypsy/Traveller encampments over the last 3 years.

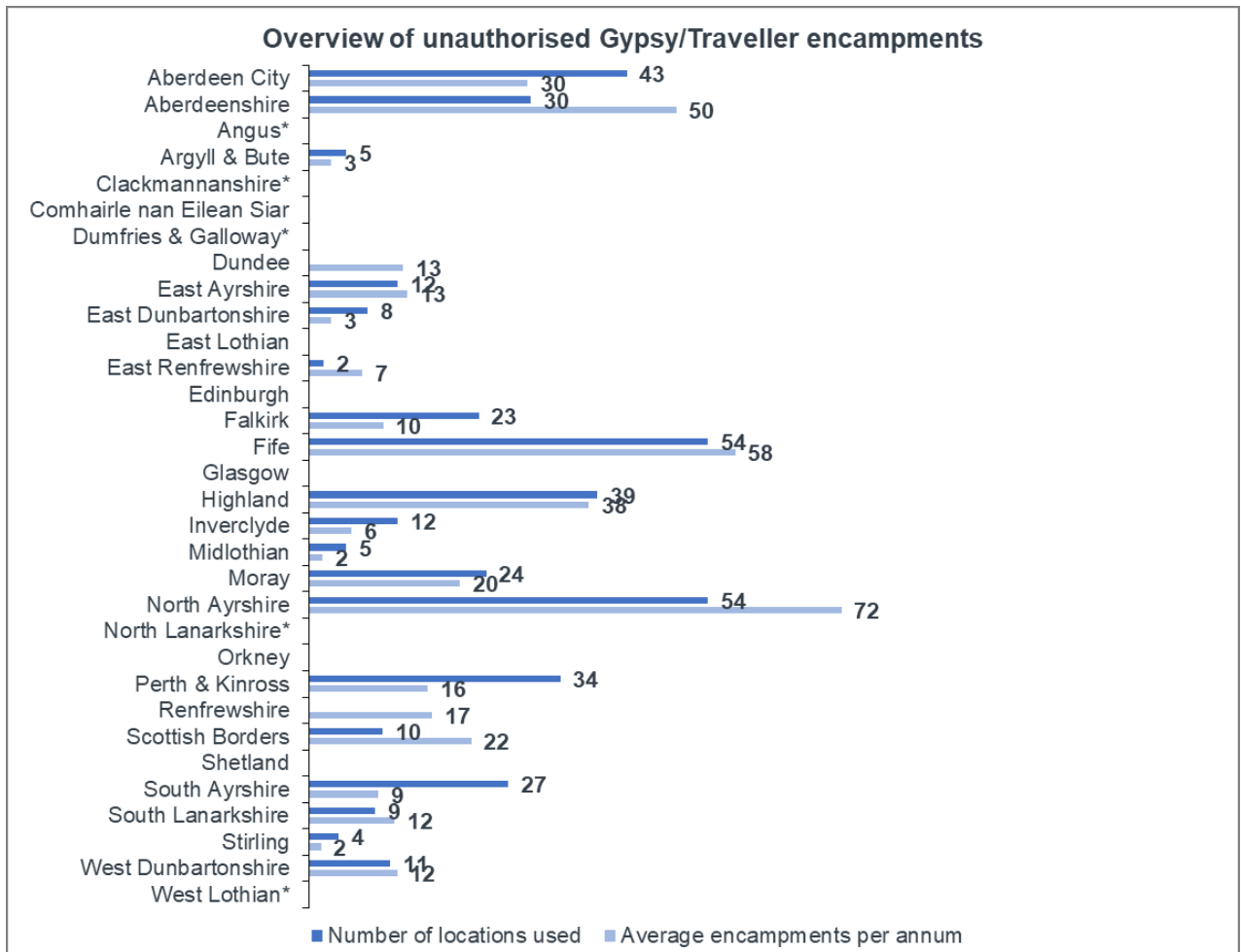
6.6 These locations account for an average of 414 unauthorised encampments per year, equivalent to 1.0 encampment per location. However, encampment activity varies significantly; 67 locations (17% of the total) show an average of 2+ encampments per year, including 12 with an average of 5+ encampments per year. Available data indicates that encampments also vary considerably in size from 1 to 20 caravans or more, but average 2.1 vans per encampment.

¹² There was some variation in the period for which local authority data was available, but for most this was a 3 year period (2015-17 or 2016-18).

¹³ *Gypsies/Travellers in Scotland: The Twice Yearly Count No. 16*, July 2009, Scottish Government

6.7 The last Twice-Yearly Count (2009) recorded encampment activity over the previous 12 months, and identified a total of around 600 encampments over this period (more than 40% higher than the annual activity recorded by the present study). This suggests that the overall level of encampment activity may have reduced since 2009. However, it should be noted that the present study has not been able to include data for several local authority areas and as such will have under-estimated the total number of encampments across Scotland. Feedback from authorities also indicates that encampment activity can fluctuate from year to year, such that more trend information would be required to confirm a sustained decrease in encampment activity.

Figure 18: Overview of unauthorised Gypsy/Traveller encampments



* Data not available for local authority

Figure 19: Overview of unauthorised Gypsy/Traveller encampments

	Number of locations used	Average camps per annum	Average per location per annum	Average camp size (vans)
SCOTLAND	406	414	1.0	2.1
Aberdeen City	43	30	0.7	3.9
Aberdeenshire	30	50	1.7	2.4
Angus*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Argyll & Bute	5	3	0.6	0.6
Clackmannanshire*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	0	0	0	0
Dumfries & Galloway*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dundee**	n/a	13	0	3.8
East Ayrshire	12	13	1.1	3.9
East Dunbartonshire	8	3	0.4	n/a
East Lothian	0	0	0	0
East Renfrewshire	2	7	3.6	n/a
Edinburgh	0	0	0	0
Falkirk	23	10	0.4	3.2
Fife	54	58	1.1	n/a
Glasgow	0	0	0	0
Highland	39	38	1.0	3.3
Inverclyde	12	6	0.5	n/a
Midlothian	5	2	0.4	n/a
Moray	24	20	0.9	2.2
North Ayrshire	54	72	1.3	2.5
North Lanarkshire*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Orkney	0	0	0	0
Perth & Kinross	34	16	0.5	4.2
Renfrewshire**	n/a	17	n/a	n/a
Scottish Borders	10	22	2.2	n/a
Shetland	0	0	0	0
South Ayrshire	27	9	0.3	3.2
South Lanarkshire	9	12	1.3	n/a
Stirling	4	2	0.4	n/a
West Dunbartonshire	11	12	1.1	6.0
West Lothian*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

* Data not available for local authority

** Data on individual encampment locations not available

Encampment locations

6.8 Map 4 shows locations known to have been used as unauthorised encampments by Gypsy/Travellers.

6.9 It should be noted that mapping of encampments is not as precise as that for sites due to the nature of encampment locations, which often do not have a recognised address or title. However, data provided by local authorities enabled mapping for a large majority of encampment locations used by Gypsy/Travellers over the last 3 years.

6.10 This indicates that unauthorised encampments are more prevalent across some regions than others. In particular, unauthorised encampments appear to be most prevalent across the Ayrshire region (primarily North Ayrshire), Fife, Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Moray, and the area around and to the north of Inverness. Local authorities across these regions typically report an average of more than 30 unauthorised encampments per year, compared to an average of 15-20 across other parts of Scotland.

6.11 Mapping also indicates that encampment locations are typically in and around small towns and urban areas, with few encampments recorded in areas classified as 'accessible rural' or 'remote rural'.¹⁴ This is consistent with previous research which has identified employment and visiting family members as potentially significant factors in Gypsy/Traveller travel patterns, and access to amenities as influencing choice of encampment location.¹⁵ However, feedback also indicates that the limited number of rural encampments recorded by local authorities may be in part due to these being less visible to landowners and local communities, and thus less likely to be reported.

¹⁴ Based on the Scottish Government Urban Rural Classification <https://www.gov.scot/UrbanRural>

¹⁵ For example Craigforth (2009) *Accommodation needs Assessment of Gypsies/Travellers in Grampian* and Lomax, D., Lloyd, M., Sosenko, E. & Clark, C. (2007) *Accommodation Needs of Gypsy Travellers in East Lothian, Midlothian, City of Edinburgh and the Scottish Borders*.

Map 4: Unauthorised Gypsy/Traveller encampments



7 Overview of Gypsy/Traveller accommodation in Scotland

7.1 The previous sections have presented available evidence on public Gypsy/Traveller sites, private sites and unauthorised encampments across Scotland. This has identified a total of 54 sites across Scotland, including 29 public and 25 private sites. These 54 sites provide a total of 613 pitches, with the great majority of these let on a permanent basis.

7.2 The study has also identified a total of 406 discreet locations across Scotland used for unauthorised Gypsy/Traveller encampments over the last 3 years, accounting for an average of 414 encampments per year.

7.3 Figure 20 provides an overview of accommodation for Gypsy/Traveller accommodation in Scotland.

7.4 Map 5 shows the location of public and private site provision, planning applications for private Gypsy/Traveller sites, and encampments used by Gypsy/Travellers. This indicates some commonality in the location of Gypsy/Traveller sites, planning applications and encampment locations.

7.5 The east of Scotland accounts for most of the local authorities with higher levels of Gypsy/Traveller provision, with the most significant concentrations in the Forth Valley region, Fife, Highland, Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Moray, and Ayrshire. These regions together account for 52% of public site pitches, 82% of private pitches, and 76% of encampment locations – while representing 32% of the Gypsy/Traveller population¹⁶. In contrast, the Glasgow & the Clyde Valley SDPA area accounts for 12% of public site pitches and 10% of encampment locations (and does not have any recorded private sites), while representing 25% of the Gypsy/Traveller population.¹⁷

¹⁶ Based on 2011 Census.

¹⁷ Glasgow & the Clyde Valley SDPA comprises East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City Inverclyde, North Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, South Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire Councils.

Figure 20: Overview of Gypsy/Traveller accommodation options

	Public sites		Private sites		Encampments	
	Sites	Active pitches	Sites	Pitches	Locations	Camps per year
SCOTLAND	29	397	25	216	406	414
Aberdeen City	1	21	1	8	43	30
Aberdeenshire	2	30	5	58	30	50
Angus	1	18	0	0	0	0
Argyll & Bute	2	19	0	0	5	3
Clackmannanshire	1	14	0	0	0	0
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dumfries & Galloway	2	21	1	14	0	0
Dundee	1	20	0	0	0	13
East Ayrshire	0	0	1	3	12	13
East Dunbartonshire	0	0	0	0	8	3
East Lothian	1	8	0	0	0	0
East Renfrewshire	0	0	0	0	2	7
Edinburgh	1	20	0	0	0	0
Falkirk	1	12	6	32	23	10
Fife	3	46	6	62	54	58
Glasgow	0	0	0	0	0	0
Highland	4	47	0	0	39	38
Inverclyde	0	0	0	0	12	6
Midlothian*	0	0	0	0	5	2
Moray	0	0	1	6	24	20
North Ayrshire	1	16	0	0	54	72
North Lanarkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Orkney	0	0	0	0	0	0
Perth & Kinross	2	26	3	24	34	16
Renfrewshire	0	0	0	0	0	17
Scottish Borders	1	10	0	0	10	22
Shetland	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Ayrshire	1	4	0	0	27	9
South Lanarkshire	2	27	0	0	9	12
Stirling	1	18	1	9	4	2
West Dunbartonshire	1	20	0	0	11	12
West Lothian	0	0	0	0	0	0

* The public site in East Lothian is a shared service with Midlothian Council.

Map 5: Gypsy/Traveller sites, planning applications and encampments





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