

## Gypsy and Travellers

### Key points:

- At the time of the 2011 Census, 635 (0.12%) people identified as a Gypsy, Traveller or Irish Community (G&T) in Cornwall;
- This is slightly higher than England (0.10%) and the South West (0.11%);
- Inequalities and poor social outcomes, such as low education attainment, are more prevalent in the G&T community than other ethnic groups;
- There are 3 G&T residential sites in Cornwall (Boscarn Parc with 32 pitches, Wheal Jewel with 24, Fordown Park with 10) and 1 transit site (South Treviddo with 16 pitches) that are owned by the Council;
- The G&T Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) revealed 318 additional residential pitches were needed by 2030.

### Background

According to the Commons Library<sup>1</sup>, the term G&T's is difficult to define as it does not constitute a single, homogenous group, but encompasses a range of groups with different histories, cultures and beliefs including, Romany Gypsies, Welsh Gypsies and Irish Gypsies. There are also Traveller groups which are generally regarded as 'cultural' rather than 'ethnic' Travellers. These include 'New' (Age) Travellers and occupation travellers, such as showpeople.

Note: This does not include people in hostels or shelters, people in campsites or other sites used for recreational purposes or organised protest, squatters or travellers.

Robust G&T is difficult to capture; however, the 2011 Census included an ethnic category to collect such data.

### The Caravan Count

The Council does not currently undertake the Caravan Count. This is a bi-annual statistic of the number of caravans on authorised and unauthorised sites across England.

### 2011 Census

According to the 2011 Census<sup>2</sup>, 55,000 people in England (0.10%) and 5,600 (0.11%) in the South West identified as a member of a Gypsy, Traveller or Irish community. In Cornwall, 635 (0.12%) identified as a member of a Gypsy, Traveller or Irish community, keeping in line with the national and regional trends. Note: these are likely to be underestimates due to the challenges with recording transient communities.

G&T's have historically lived nomadic lives in the UK, although they have increasingly moved into housing. In fact, whole house or bungalow was the most common type of accommodation for respondents who identified as Gypsy or Irish Traveller (84% for England and Wales as a whole)<sup>3</sup>. The Office for National

<sup>1</sup> <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-8083/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/ks201uk>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/ethnicity/articles/whatdoesthe2011censusstellusaboutthecharacteristicsofgypsioririshtravellersinenglandandwales/2014-01-21>

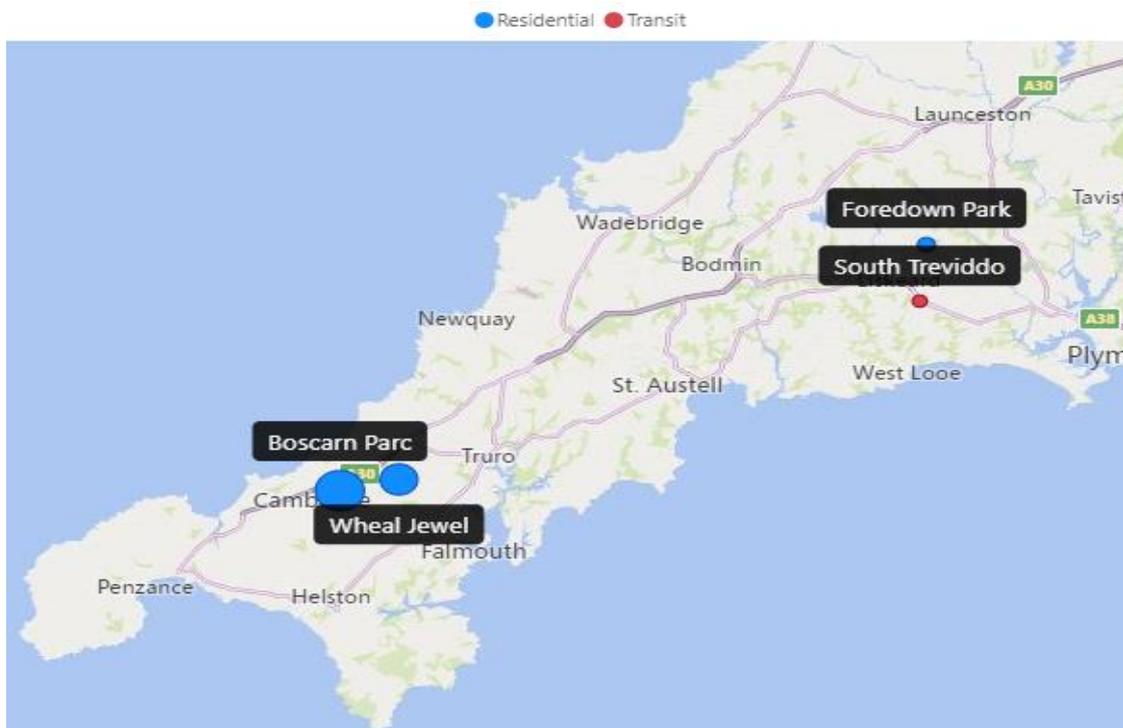
## Housing in Cornwall 2021 Gypsy and Travellers

Statistics (ONS) also stated that nationally, G&T's were born predominantly in the United Kingdom (UK) (88%)<sup>4</sup> and revealed that the age demographic of G&T's was younger than the wider English and Welsh population. The median age of G&T's was 26, whereas the median age for the English and Welsh population was 39<sup>5</sup>.

### G&T Accommodation

There are different types of sites for G&T's, these include:

- **Residential/Permanent** - these sites are either provided by local authorities or are owned by G&Ts. The sites are used as a long-term residence, are managed and have a number of amenities, such as water supply, electricity, individual toilets and utility rooms. Cornwall Housing Ltd (CHL) lease and manage three sites at Wheal Jewel, Boscarn Parc and Foredown Parc for which the residents pay rent. There are also a number of privately owned sites within the County.
- **Transit**– the Council has recently developed one transit site at South Treviddo. This offers 15 pitches with basic facilities (toilet/electricity/water) for temporary stays of up to 3 months. The site management will be delivered by CHL and Travellers wishing to use the site must pay a deposit and rent for the duration of their stay. South Treviddo is not for Showpeople, but for G&T families moving through the county. Showpeople would normally have their own stopping places and do not mix with the G&T community.
- **Unauthorised Encampments** - defined by the Government as "encampments of caravans and/or other vehicles on land without the landowner or occupier's consent and constituting trespass". Unauthorised camping is not a criminal offence, but it is a civil offence (trespass), giving landowners the right to repossess their property using the due process of law.



<sup>4</sup><https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/ethnicity/articles/whatdoesthe2011censusstellusaboutthecharacteristicsofgypsyoririshtravellersinenglandandwales/2014-01-21>

<sup>5</sup><https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/bulletins/2011censuspopulationandhouseholdestimatesforenglandandwales/2012-07-16#:~:text=The%20change%20in%20the%20broad,for%20women%20it%20was%2040.>

## Housing in Cornwall 2021 Gypsy and Travellers

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In 2015, a Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) provided targets for provision of G&T pitches for the Local Plan Period 2010-2030. Based on survey data, the GTAA identified that the supply of residential pitches was insufficient to meet demand; 139 pitches were required in 2015 and 318 by 2030. At present, 86 (May 2021) new additional permanent residential pitches have been delivered to date, meaning 232 are required by 2030. However, at an average of 17.2 pitches permitted per year (full year), the indicative total residential pitches are estimated to reach 241 by 2030 (77 short of the 2030 target).

In terms of transit, 60 pitches are required with 15 currently delivered (as at May 2021) at South Treviddo. For Showpeople, 11 plots are required with 3 currently delivered (as at May 2021) in Camelford.

### Inequalities Experienced by G&T Communities

G&T's contend with a range of inequalities and poor social outcomes, including the lowest educational attainment of all ethnic groups (the 2011 census revealed that 49% of Cornwall's Gypsy's or Irish Traveller's had no qualifications compared to 23% of those identifying as white British), less access to a General Practitioner (GP) compared with white British people (62% compared to 70%), the lowest rate of economic activity of any ethnic group and experience hate speech or a hate crime. A 2017 survey carried out by Traveller Movement<sup>6</sup> found that nationally 77% (153/199) respondents were victims of hate speech/hate crime and 91% (184/202) experienced discrimination because of their ethnicity.<sup>7</sup>

### Links to further information

- <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-8083/>
- <https://www.gypsy-traveller.org/>
- <https://travellermovement.org.uk/about/gypsy-roma-traveller-history-and-culture>
- <https://www.cornwallhousing.org.uk/about-cornwall-housing/gypsy-and-travellers/>

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.travellermovement.org.uk/phocadownload/userupload/reports/last-acceptable-form-of-racism-traveller-movement-report.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/DC5209EWLA/view/1132462132?rows=c\\_ethpuk11&cols=c\\_hlqpuk11](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/DC5209EWLA/view/1132462132?rows=c_ethpuk11&cols=c_hlqpuk11)