

Needs Assessment for Travelling Showpeople

Cherwell District Council

Oxford City Council

South Oxfordshire District Council

Vale of White Horse

West Oxfordshire District Council

10 November 2008

Services for life

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Executive summary

Introduction

1. This study was commissioned as a follow-on study to the Gypsy and Traveller needs assessment carried out by Tribal for The Association of Councils of the Thames Valley Region (ACTVaR). The specific aim of this follow-on study was to carry out an accommodation needs assessment for travelling showpeople in the county of Oxfordshire.
2. The study has been funded by Cherwell District Council, Oxford City Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council and West Oxfordshire District Council.
3. The purpose of this study was to carry out an assessment of the accommodation (including spatial requirements for storage and maintenance of fairground rides) needs of travelling showpeople in the county of Oxfordshire. The aims and objectives of this study were to:
 - Identify the current presence of showpeople in the Oxfordshire area, including household characteristics, the types of accommodation currently occupied, links to the local area and/or other areas; specific accommodation requirements (including space required for storage and maintenance of vehicles/rides)
 - Understand, document and quantify the accommodation and related needs (for instance for housing related support, education and health services) of showpeople in Oxfordshire
 - Provide analysis of these needs at the county and district level
 - Ensure that the coverage of the study and calculation of need arising from it comply with the guidance issued by CLG for needs assessments
4. The types of accommodation used by showpeople identified within this study fall into four broad types
 - Authorised sites – are sites owned by private individuals. Showpeople may either own the site, a plot on the site or rent a plot. This study included interviews with 25 households living on authorised sites.
 - Unauthorised developments – are developments that occur when showpeople buy a piece of land which does not have planning permission for a dwelling and place a chalet, trailer or caravan on it. This study identified two plots of land without planning permission. One was owned by a showperson but not currently used for residential purposes because it has no planning permission. The other is not owned by a showperson but is occasionally used on a temporary basis. No interviews were carried out with people residing on unauthorised developments at the time of the interview.
 - Those with no fixed address – where showpeople do not have a base and are moving between fairs and making temporary accommodation arrangements. This study included interviews with three households with no fixed address and a strong local connection with Oxfordshire.
 - Housing – There is no specific housing reserved for showpeople but the study estimated that around 10% of showpeople live in general housing. This study included interviews with two households living in housing.

Methodology

5. Tribal met with the steering group to discuss the proposed methodology and logistics, the questionnaire content and structure, the background and local context to the work, to agree a timetable, and the required coverage of the survey.
6. A questionnaire was developed which included questions on household formation, accommodation, storage and maintenance needs, views about site provision, movement patterns and views on existing accommodation.
7. Information was gathered about the location of travelling showpeople in the area living in housing and on sites from the five local authorities and the Showman's Guild. A letter was then sent by the Showman's Guild informing members of the study and encouraging participation.
8. A total of 30 interviews took place during July 2008. The exact size of the showpeople population in Oxfordshire is not known, however we estimate that our sample of interviews represents around 45% of the local population. Because the population size is not high a sample of this size cannot be assumed to be necessarily representative of the population. In other words, we cannot assume with certainty that the needs and preferences reported during the study interviews will necessarily be the same as those held by the total population of showpeople. This is particularly the case when attempting to draw conclusions about sub-groups covered by the study, for instance showpeople living in housing. Guidance issued by Government to local authorities accepts that may often be the case for studies of this type.

General findings

9. All those interviewed expressed a need to live on an authorised site. A small number said that they would prefer to live in a house on a site but none said that they wanted to move to general non-site based housing. There is a strong preference amongst many showpeople to live alongside other members of their extended family.
10. Just under half of those interviewed said that their current accommodation does not meet their current needs and the most commonly cited reason for this was lack of space. Other problems were also mentioned including lack of facilities, flooding, insecurity, problems with neighbours and lack of footpaths to walk to local amenities.
11. The average household size was larger than for the general population in the Oxfordshire area with an average of three members per household, compared to 2.41 for the overall population.
12. Almost all interviewees stated that they had lived in Oxfordshire for over ten years with some having lived in the county all their lives. Almost all interviewees travel to shows but said that the pattern of travel has changed and that they are much more likely to travel shorter distances and return to their site more frequently during the main months of travel which are Easter through to November. For those with children this is often to enable their children to take up a more settled education.
13. Employment patterns are considered to be changing with an increasing number of showpeople taking on alternative employment. In most instances the alternative work is taken to supplement their income from fairs as business costs increase. Most interviewees did however think that the family business would grow as children would need to acquire more rides to maintain the business. Others commented that showpeople need to expand their businesses in order to make the same profit levels in the current economic climate.
14. The types of rides and equipment for which storage and maintenance space was needed varied across households however the space for storage and maintenance is generally considered to be needed on the site where people live. A number of interviewees were not able to store their equipment nearby which had led to problems with vandalism and theft. Others had their

equipment stored at numerous locations which creates problems for maintenance and also general logistics.

Need for permanent site accommodation

- 15. As the interview sample could not be assumed to be necessarily representative, we also considered the findings from other needs assessments when developing our assumptions about the need for new site provision in the area. In general we took the needs and preferences expressed by our interview sample and compared these findings to those from other studies. Where these were broadly similar this provided some evidence of the validity of the findings. Where they were dissimilar, we considered whether this indicated that our sample may be unrepresentative and, where necessary, developed our assumption on an adjusted figure. An example of this is given below.
- 16. All of our interview sample living in housing expressed a preference for living on a site. This proportion was much higher than the proportion from other recent studies. We therefore adjusted this assumption downwards to 30% on the basis that our sample may not have been representative of all showpeople living in housing in the Oxfordshire area, and that not all of those with a preference for site accommodation would necessarily complete a move to take up that preference (for instance because they did not wish to disrupt their children's education). We then used this percentage to calculate the need for site based plots for showpeople thought to be living in housing.
- 17. As required by the brief, we have used the findings from the overall study to assess needs arising at the district and unitary council level. The study provides an assessment of needs for site based accommodation arising in each local authority area; however it should be noted that the results will be less reliable than at the regional level. The development of separate assumptions at the local authority level was not realistic given the very small sample sizes at that level. We have therefore divided the needs calculated above between each district based upon the percentage of the assumed population of showpeople in the county.
- 18. **In section five of the main report we have described the basis of all our assumptions in full. Readers are *strongly* encouraged to read this before interpreting the findings at either the regional or local level. These assumptions are summarised in the table below which shows the assessments of need at the regional level. .**
- 19. The calculation of the need for new site based accommodation set out below firstly quantifies need (based on the survey findings adjusted where necessary), and then subtracts from this the calculated supply of site based accommodation for showpeople. The validity of the final figure (indicative requirement) depends upon the reliability of the assumptions of need that we have developed.

CURRENT RESIDENTIAL SUPPLY		
A Current supply of socially rented residential site plots in county	0	Based on information from local authorities
B Current supply of lawful/authorised privately owned site plots in county	58	Based on data from the survey and the local authorities (see table 2)
C Total plots on lawful/authorised sites (A + B)	58	
D Number of lawful/authorised plots not available for letting (due to management problems, awaiting refurbishment etc)	0	

E Number of available plots (C – D)	58	
F Currently vacant plots	6	
G Number of existing plots expected to become vacant and lettable through normal annual turnover (LA and privately owned)	2.3	Based on an assumption that 4% of private plots will become vacant each year (4% of E)
H Number of households in site accommodation expressing a desire to live in housing	0	Number of households on authorised sites who would take up housing(off site) if offered (as per survey findings)
I New local authority plots already planned	0	There are no known new sites planned at present
J Existing applications for private site development / extension likely to gain approval	0	There are no known plans for site development or extension at present
K Net Available Supply (F + G + H + I + J)	8.3	
CURRENT NEED		
L Households who are currently of no fixed abode	3	No record of unlawful/unauthorised encampments involving showpeople but three households with no fixed address
M Households on unlawful/unauthorised developments	6	Total number of households living on authorised sites outside the terms of the fire regulations and planning permission for that site
N Concealed households in this study area currently in need of accommodation	20	Based on 30% concealed households (based on survey findings) requiring site accommodation from a total assumed number of 66.7 households.
O In housing but with a need for site accommodation	1.9	Based on 30% of estimated 6.3 households living in housing
P Current Gross Need (L+M + N + O)	30.9	
Q Current Net Need (P - K)	22.6	

R Additional household formation 2008 – 2018	31.8	Number of new households likely to form in next ten years who will wish to take up site accommodation. Based on 53% household growth taken from the survey (using the overall household estimate but excluding those in housing i.e.60)
S Gross need to 2018 (Q + R)	54.4	
T Supply of plots available from current supply over 2009 – 2018	20.7	Assumes: Vacancies arising on lawful/authorised sites over a ten year periods due to normal net turnover of 4% (9 x 2.3 = 20.7)
U Net need for additional permanent plots 2008 – 2018 (S - T)	33.7	

20. Tribal has used the same assumptions developed at the county level to calculate need for additional plots arising at the district level. These needs should be viewed in the context of the overall needs for the county as they inevitably result in a need for a greater proportion of plots arising from those areas that are already making the greatest contribution to supply of sites in the region. The calculations at the district level should be regarded as an indication of the needs arising for site based accommodation at the local level, but not necessarily an indication that those needs have to be met in that district.

Need for transit sites

21. This study did not identify any clear evidence of a need for additional stopping places or transit sites (plots upon which showpeople can park their caravan or trailer for a relatively short space of time whilst travelling or taking up temporary work) in the county or adjoining areas. The need for transit sites and temporary stopping places within the area are more likely to arise from those from outside the county travelling through the county and there was no evidence of this gathered during the study. The study did however identify a need for improvements to accommodation conditions on fairgrounds in the county.

Next steps

22. The results of the survey appear to have confirmed the assumptions contained within recent CLG guidance on the lifestyle and needs of travelling showpeople, namely that many showpeople now need site accommodation for more than the winter period and prefer to have permanent accommodation which they can return to in-between fairs as much as possible
23. The accommodation needs assessment has revealed a need for a significant increase in the number of plots on permanent authorised sites over the next ten years. Tribal considers it unlikely that this is an over-estimate (and indeed it is more likely to be an under-estimate given the uncertainty of continued future supply at current levels), however the overall assessment is based on a number of assumptions that may not be fully accurate.
24. All of respondents to Tribal's survey expressed a need for site based accommodation rather than housing to meet the needs of showpeople. Given the high rates of household growth

within the communities, and the pressures that have operated at the local level (for instance shortages of land, competing land uses, opposition from local communities to new site provision) to limit the development of new sites, it is not surprising that a significant provision is now needed to meet the backlog of current need.

25. In deciding how to respond to the needs identified during this study the authorities should involve the local communities to ensure that the solutions identified will work in practice and adequately reflect the needs and preferences of the intended recipients.

1 Introduction

1.1 About this study

1.1.1 This study was commissioned as a follow-on study to the Gypsy and Traveller needs assessment carried out by Tribal for The Association of Councils of the Thames Valley Region (ACTVaR). The specific aim of this follow-on study was to carry out an accommodation needs assessment for travelling showpeople in the county of Oxfordshire.

1.1.2 The ACTVaR study was carried out between December 2005 and September 2006 and was commissioned in response to section 225 of the Housing Act 2004, which requires all local authorities to carry out accommodation needs assessments for Gypsies and Travellers. The aims of the study were to:

- Gain a better understanding of the regional and local pattern of movements and encampments
- Inform the current understanding of accommodation and support needs as assessed by the local housing authorities
- Inform the development of future housing and planning policy at a district level
- Identify and inform the possible opportunities for cross-authority working to address Gypsy and Traveller needs

1.1.3 This study has similar aims but is specifically focused on the needs of travelling showpeople in the county of Oxfordshire. The needs of circus people are also included within this study. The study has been funded by Cherwell District Council, Oxford City Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council and West Oxfordshire District Council.

1.1.4 Tribal would like to thank the Showman's Guild for their support and assistance throughout this study.

1.2 The brief

1.2.1 The purpose of this study was to carry out an assessment of the accommodation (including spatial requirements for storage and maintenance of fairground rides) needs of travelling showpeople in the county of Oxfordshire. As for the ACTVaR study, the assessment was required to comply with the needs assessment guidance issued by the department of Communities and Local Government (CLG). This CLG guidance was issued in October 2007 to replace draft guidance issued in February 2006.

1.2.2 The aims and objectives of this study were to:

- Identify the current presence of showpeople in the Oxfordshire area, including household characteristics, the types of accommodation currently occupied, links to the local area and/or other areas; specific accommodation requirements (including space required for storage and maintenance of vehicles/rides)
- Understand, document and quantify the accommodation and related needs (for instance for housing related support, education and health services) of showpeople in Oxfordshire
- Provide analysis of these needs at the county and district level

- Ensure that the coverage of the study and calculation of need arising from it comply with the guidance issued by CLG for needs assessments

1.3 The methodology

- 1.3.1 The methodology was based upon the CLG guidance and our experience of using that guidance for other Gypsy and Traveller studies.
- 1.3.2 We began by meeting with the steering group to discuss our proposed methodology and logistics, the questionnaire content and structure, the background and local context to the work, to agree a timetable, and the required coverage of the survey.
- 1.3.3 Prior to this meeting Tribal had gathered information from the Showman's Guild and key stakeholders from each of the five authorities about the location of travelling showpeople in the area living in housing and on sites.
- 1.3.4 Tribal developed a questionnaire for the interviews with travelling showpeople. The questionnaire was based upon questionnaires developed by Tribal for previous showpeople and Gypsy and Traveller studies. It was tailored to encompass points raised by the steering group (see **Appendix A**). One of the issues discussed with the steering group was the suitability of the questionnaire for those living in housing. As a result of this a separate questionnaire was developed for those living in housing (see **Appendix B**).
- 1.3.5 The Showman's Guild provided postal addresses for each of the households known to them, and mailed out an initial letter about the survey. Tribal followed up this initial contact with a further letter and a briefing note on the survey encouraging people to take part and informing them of the dates for the fieldwork. The briefing note was adapted from those used by Tribal in previous studies. A copy of the letter sent out by the Showman's Guild can be found at **Appendix C** and a copy of the letter and briefing note sent out by Tribal can be found at **Appendix D**.
- 1.3.6 The interviews took place during July 2008 when traditionally a lot of showpeople are travelling. Despite this 25 face to face interviews and five telephone interviews with travelling showpeople living in Oxfordshire were carried out by Tribal. Details of the approaches made to contact other travelling showpeople in the county are included in section three. At the end of interviews participants were asked if they might be interested in becoming involved in consultation to inform the Local Development Framework. For those that expressed an interest information was left with them containing contact details for their local planning department (see **Appendix E**).
- 1.3.7 The study encompasses the needs of showpeople and circus people. Only one potential circus winter quarters was identified and this was no longer being used as a circus but two circus people were living on the site.
- 1.3.8 Caution must be taken when undertaking studies with such small numbers since the data gathered may not be representative of the wider population.

2 Context for the research

2.1 The lifestyle of Travelling Showpeople

- 2.1.1 Recent CLG guidance¹ describes showpeople as ‘members of a community that consists of self-employed business people who travel the country, often with their families, holding fairs’. It notes that many of these families have been taking part in this lifestyle for generations.
- 2.1.2 The guidance states that showpeople require secure, permanent bases for the storage of their equipment and more particularly for residential purposes. Such bases are occupied during the winter, when many showpeople will return there with their caravans, vehicles and fairground equipment. For this reason these sites have been traditionally referred to as ‘winter quarters’. But increasingly the sites are occupied by some members of the family permanently – particularly older members of the family and school age children and their carers.
- 2.1.3 The guidance suggests that a reduction in large scale fairs has led many showpeople to diversify their employment activities and to restrict their travelling to a more local area, with a consequential need for more permanent bases on which to live and maintain their equipment.
- 2.1.4 The guidance identifies circus people as a subgroup of showpeople. It states that the development needs of circus people as slightly different from those of showpeople as they are likely to require an enclosed space in which to rehearse and may also require space to exercise animals such as horses.

2.2 National guidance

- 2.2.1 Circular 04/2007 has replaced circular 22/91 which gave advice to local authorities about planning considerations relating to travelling showpeople. It was considered necessary to replace this circular because evidence shows that advice set out in the circular has failed to deliver adequate sites for showpeople.
- 2.2.2 Much of the material within the new 04/2007 circular replicates guidance for Gypsies and Travellers² however a separate circular for showpeople was considered necessary because
- Travelling showpeople do not in general share the same culture and traditions as Gypsies and Travellers
 - Sites for travelling showpeople are normally for mixed residential and business use to enable the effective storage and repair of significant amounts of equipment
 - The nature of travelling showpeople’s business often means that repairs and maintenance are necessary which can have a visual impact and can create noise in the immediate surrounding areas
 - For clarity and ease and to ensure that all relevant guidance on planning for travelling showpeople is contained in one document

¹ *Planning for Travelling Showpeople Communities and Local Government August 2007 Circular 04/2007*

² Circular 01/06 (ODPM): Planning for Gypsies and Travellers

- 2.2.3 The guidance highlights the need for local authorities to assess the accommodation needs of travelling showpeople in their local area in order to feed into the preparation of Development Plan Documents (DPD) and Regional Spatial Strategies. The guidance states that, where the Inspector regards there to be insufficient allocation of sites within the DPD to meet the needs of travelling showpeople, he or she can recommend that the DPD is altered to include additional sites.
- 2.2.4 New measures were introduced to the Housing Act 2004 to require local authorities to undertake an assessment of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers, including travelling showpeople and circus people, and to put a strategy in place which sets out how any identified needs will be met, as part of their wider housing strategy. In February 2006 the Government’s Gypsy and Traveller Unit issued draft practice guidance to authorities about how to conduct needs assessments. Final guidance was issued in October 2007. In this context the term ‘Gypsy and Traveller’ includes travelling showpeople and circus people.
- 2.2.5 The Government has introduced Gypsy and Traveller Site Grant which provides up to 100% funding for the establishment of new residential and transit sites whilst continuing to provide funding for the refurbishment and renewal of existing sites. In addition to this, the Housing Corporation will be able to provide funding to Registered Social Landlords for the establishment of Gypsy and Traveller sites. Sites for travelling showpeople are eligible for grant funding from this source.
- 2.2.6 For the purposes of this study the term “plot” is defined as the area set aside for one family unit and the area set aside for the storage and maintenance of their equipment³.

2.3 Showpeople in Oxfordshire

- 2.3.1 Tribal gathered information from discussions with Showman’s Guild and local stakeholders to assist in identifying the current presence of travelling showpeople in the county of Oxfordshire. Below provides a brief summary of the information gathered for each local authority, this is followed by a more detailed summary of the authorities where showpeople sites were identified.

Figure 1 – Initial information provided on showpeople sites

Local authority	Information gathered
Cherwell District Council	Four authorised showpeople sites were identified in Cherwell. These sites were all known to the local authority.
Oxford City Council	One authorised showpeople site was identified in Oxford and was known to the local authority.
South Oxfordshire District Council	Three authorised showpeople sites were identified in South Oxfordshire. All of these sites were known to the local authority.

³ Taken from Planning for Travelling Showpeople – CLG Circular 04/2007

Local authority	Information gathered
Vale of White Horse	<p>One authorised showpeople site was identified in Vale of White Horse and was known to the local authority.</p> <p>A second site queried by the local authority as a possible site is a field without facilities but is used to store equipment and as a temporary stopping place. This land does not have planning permission to be used as a site.</p>
West Oxfordshire District Council	<p>Four authorised sites were identified in West Oxfordshire and were known to the local authority.</p> <p>One of these sites is currently for sale and the planning permission will be lost if the land is sold.</p> <p>In addition the Chipperfield's Circus site (which is also known to the local authority) is no longer used as a circus but does accommodate retired circus people who have connections with both the circus and the family who still own the land.</p> <p>An additional plot of land in the district is owned by a showperson but the planning application and appeal have been turned down.</p>

2.3.2

Our discussions with the steering group and local stakeholders revealed that there are showpeople living on sites in all the districts within Oxfordshire. The table below show the information Tribal has gathered on each of these sites and evidence of sites where showpeople are living. Where planning permission is only granted for occupation during the winter months or is higher for the winter, this has been recorded in the comments section. In these cases the number of plots included in our supply calculations (in section five) reflect the planning permission for winter months. If year round permission is not subsequently granted or tolerated at this higher rate, the supply calculations would need to be reduced accordingly.

Figure 2 – Showpeople sites in Oxfordshire

District	Site location	Planning status and type of site	Capacity as per fire regs and planning permission (no. of plots)	Households in occupation	Additional comments
Cherwell	Rose’s Yard, Blue Pitts, South Newington Rd, Bloxham,OX15 4QF	Authorised private showpeople site	3	3	
	Carousel Park, South Newington Rd, Bloxham,OX15 4JB	Authorised private showpeople site	2	2	The planning permission at this site is personal to the family
	Fairacre, South Newington Rd, Bloxham,OX15 4JB	Authorised private showpeople site	6	8	Site has planning permission for 5 in summer and 6 in winter and is occupied by 6 in summer and 8 in winter
	Hebborn’s Yard, Bicester Road, Gosford OX5 2LD	Authorised private showpeople site	3	0	All plots currently vacant
Oxford City	Forge House, 29 Cowley Road, Littlemore OX4 4LE	Authorised private showpeople site	1	2	This site is for sale and once sold the owner will move to his other site Hebborn’s Yard in Cherwell

District	Site location	Planning status and type of site	Capacity as per fire regs and planning permission (no. of plots)	Households in occupation	Additional comments
South Oxforde hire	Webbs Yard, Cuxham Road, Watlington, OX49 5LZ	Authorised private showpeople site	12	11	Whilst there is planning permission for 14 plots the site now only has capacity for 12 because of the required distance between caravans due to fire regulations. 1 plot currently vacant
	Buckland's Yard, Buckland's Paddock, Cuxham Road, Watlington, OX49 5LY	Authorised private showpeople site	5	3	The site has 7 plots. 3 are occupied by showpeople, 2 are occupied by non-showpeople and 2 are vacant.
	Sandpit, Baldon Lane, Marsh Baldon, Oxford OX44 5RT	Authorised private showpeople site	5	5	The planning permission at this site is personal to the family
Vale of White Horse	Sutton Wick Lane, Drayton	Site without planning permission	0	0	This site does not have planning permission. It is used for storage of equipment and as a temporary stopping place

District	Site location	Planning status and type of site	Capacity as per fire regs and planning permission (no. of plots)	Households in occupation	Additional comments
	Fairview, Oday Hill Lane, Abingdon, OX14 4AB	Authorised private showpeople site	3	3	
West Oxforads hire	The Homestead, Bell Lane Cassington, OX29 4DS	Authorised private showpeople site	4	7	This site is occupied by 6 in summer and 7 in winter
	Hatwell's Yard, Greenacre, Scrubbs Lane, Shilton OX18	Authorised private showpeople site	3	3	
	Forest's Yard, Brickel's Meadow, West End, Witney OX 28 1NJ	Authorised private showpeople site	6	6	
	Beaumont House, Sutton, Stanton Harcourt	Authorised private showpeople site	3	2	This site is for sale and the planning permission will cease upon sale
	Chipperfield's Circus	Permission for winter quarters for circus people	2	2	Planning for winter quarters on this site has been established for over 30 years, and although it is no longer used for circus purposes, a small number of retired circus people still occupy the site

District	Site location	Planning status and type of site	Capacity as per fire regs and planning permission (no. of plots)	Households in occupation	Additional comments
	Bell Lane Cassington	Planning permission not granted and appeal lost	0	0	This land is owned by a showman who is not occupying due to failure to gain planning permission
Total			58	57	

2.3.3 Below we have provided a short summary describing information gathered on each of the sites where we have identified showpeople living. Sources used to gather this information included:

- Showman’s Guild records
- Information from local authority records
- Additional information gathered during fieldwork

Cherwell

2.3.4 There are four showpeople sites in Cherwell. Three of the sites Rose’s Yard, Carousel Park and Fairacre are adjacent to one another along South Newington Road in Bloxham. Rose’s Yard has planning permission for three plots and is occupied by three households. Carousel Park has planning permission for two plots and the site is occupied by two households. Planning permission is personal to the family and if the family leave the provision will not longer exist.

2.3.5 Discussions with the residents suggest that Fairacre has planning permission for six plots with permission for a mobile home on four of the six plots. One of the six plots on Fairacre appears to have planning permission for winter quarters only. At present there are six households on the site and this increases to eight during the winter months.

2.3.6 The fourth site in Cherwell is Hebborn’s Yard on Bicester Road in Gosford. This site has planning permission for three plots. During the fieldwork the site was not visited as researchers were informed that it was not occupied however the owner of the site was interviewed whilst at the site in Oxford City which he also owns. He explained that the site is currently used for storage of equipment and that he plans to move to the site in Cherwell once he sells the site in Oxford City.

Oxford City

2.3.7 One site was identified in Oxford City on Crowley Road in Littlemore. There is a house on the site and planning permission for one household on the site. The house was occupied by the owners parents however one has died and the other has moved to a nursing home to receive 24 hour care. The site is currently occupied by two households neither of

whom live in the house. The site is for sale and once sold, the owner and the other household on the site will move to Fairacre in Cherwell which he also owns. It has not been confirmed whether the planning permission is personal or will remain after the sale if the sale is to another showperson although it is being sold as a “house with yard”.

South Oxfordshire

- 2.3.8 Three sites were identified in South Oxfordshire. The first site, Webb’s Yard Park has planning permission for 14 plots but in reality only has capacity for 12 because of the required distance between caravans and trailers due to fire regulations that have been introduced after the planning permission was granted. The site is occupied by 11 households as one plot is currently vacant. The owner commented that there is an ongoing need for space for staff caravans so it may be used for that and in the longer term used to accommodate his children’s families.
- 2.3.9 The second site in South Oxfordshire is Buckland’s Yard on Cuxham Road in Watlington. The site has planning permission for seven caravans, three of which are occupied by showpeople, two by non-showpeople and two are vacant. The site is crowded and the owner commented on the need for more space.
- 2.3.10 The third site in South Oxfordshire is Sandpit on Baldon Lane in Marsh Baldon. The local authority identified five plots on this site. Planning permission was offered retrospectively in 2005 for continued use as a showperson’s depot including storage and maintenance of vehicles and equipment and residential occupation. The planning permission is personal for the benefit of the owner, his daughter and granddaughter. The site was visited but there were not any occupants present so it was not possible to carry out any interviews at this site. For the purposes of this needs assessment we have assumed the number of households on the site equates to the number of caravans granted planning permission on the site.

Vale of White Horse

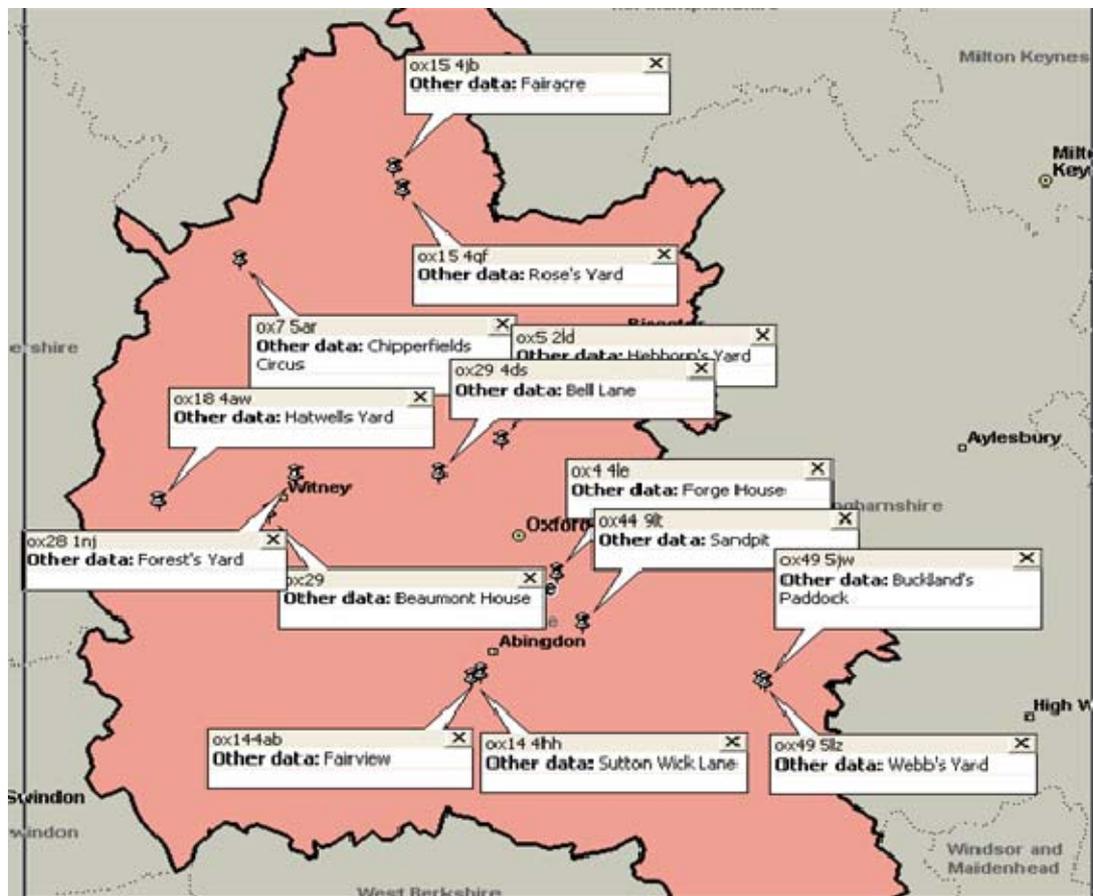
- 2.3.11 The local authority identified two possible sites in the Vale of White Horse. The first site was thought to be on Stone Hill Lane in Bagpuize however the actual location is Fairview on Oday Hill Lane (leading on from Stone Hill Lane) in Abingdon. This site is occupied by three households and has planning permission for two trailers and a mobile home.
- 2.3.12 The second potential site identified by the local authority is on Sutton Wick Lane in Drayton. This is not a site but land owned by a farmer who allows showpeople to store equipment. The land is not served by any amenities and does not have planning permission for residential use. It is however sometimes used as a temporary stopping place by showpeople. During the fieldwork visit the land was temporarily occupied by one of the households with no permanent accommodation who had been interviewed on a fairground earlier in the study.

West Oxfordshire

- 2.3.13 The local authority identified five sites in West Oxfordshire. The first site, The Homestead on Bell Lane in Cassington has planning permission for four plots. The site is occupied by six households at present with an additional household occupying during the winter months.
- 2.3.14 The second site in West Oxfordshire is Hatwell’s Yard on Scrubbs Lane in Shilton. The site has planning permission for three plots and is occupied by three households.
- 2.3.15 The third site in West Oxfordshire is Forest’s Yard off West End in Witney. The site has planning permission for six plots and is occupied by six households.

- 2.3.16 The fourth site in this district is Beaumont House at Sutton, Stanton Harcourt. The site is owned by non showpeople who live in the house. The house is currently for sale and has been on the market for about 18 months. There is current planning permission for three plots and the site is occupied by two households. The planning permission is however personal and will cease with the sale of the land to another party.
- 2.3.17 The fifth site identified is the former site of Chipperfield's Circus. This site has planning permission as winter quarter for circus people and began to be used for these purposes in the 1950's although the owner was unsure of the specific detail of the planning permission. The family are no longer in the Circus business and diversified in the 1980s into animal training for the film and TV business. Circus people do still come and stay with their caravans on an occasional basis but there are no facilities such as sewerage and so they can only accommodate self contained caravans. There are water, toilets and a shower on site but within the block that is part of the animal training compound so cannot be used unless staff from the business are present for health and safety and insurance purposes. There are currently two retired circus people living on the site one has been there for 15 years and the other for 20 years. In addition to this one household lives on the site permanently in a mobile home. Both the adults in this household are members of staff for the current business. Another travelling circus worker pulls on to the site with their family during the winter months.
- 2.3.18 In addition to the sites identified by the local authority an interview was carried out with a showperson who has land on Bell Lane in Cassington. The land is not used as a site because planning permission has not been obtained. The household is currently staying out of the Oxfordshire area but has strong local connections with the area.

Figure 3 – Site map



3 Survey Sample

3.1 Profile of the sample frame

3.1.1 A total of 30 interviews were carried out. The table below shows a summary of interviews completed by district.

Figure 4 – Sample size by district

District	Number of interviews
Cherwell District Council	7
Oxford City Council	1
South Oxfordshire District Council	3
Vale of White Horse	1
West Oxfordshire District Council	15
NFA	3
Total	30

3.1.2 The survey sample included 25 face to face interviews and five telephone interviews with travelling showpeople covering in total eleven sites within the study area. Four of these sites were located in West Oxfordshire, three in Cherwell, two in South Oxfordshire and one in Oxford City and one in Vale of White Horse.

3.1.3 Three of the interviews were with showpeople who do not have a fixed address (NFA) but have a strong link to Oxfordshire and we have identified for each a link to particular districts. The table below provides more information about these households, their current situation and links with Oxfordshire.

3.1.4 The interviews carried out can be broken down as follows by district:

Figure 5 – Interviews by site and district

District	Site name	Interviews
Cherwell	Rose’s Yard, Blue Pitts, South Newington Rd, Bloxham,OX15 4QF	2
	Carousel Park, South Newington Rd, Bloxham,OX15 4JB	2
	Fairacre, South Newington Rd, Bloxham,OX15 4JB	2
	Housed	1
	No fixed address	1

District	Site name	Interviews
Oxford City	Forge House, 29 Cowley Road, Littlemore OX4 4LE	1
South Oxfordshire	Webbs Yard, Cuxham Road, Watlington, OX49 5LZ	2
	Buckland's Yard, Buckland's Paddock, Cuxham Road, Watlington, OX49 5LY	1
	No fixed address	1
Vale of White Horse	Fairview, Oday Hill Lane, Abingdon, OX14 4AB	1
West Oxfordshire	The Homestead, Bell Lane Cassington, OX29 4DS	4
	Hatwell's Yard, Greenacre, Scrubbs Lane, Shilton OX18	3
	Forest's Yard, Brickel's Meadow, West End, Witney OX 28 1NJ	6
	Beaumont House, Sutton, Stanton Harcourt	1
	Housed	1
	No fixed address	1
Total		30

3.1.5 The table below provides a summary of showpeople interviewed who are currently not living on existing authorised sites in Oxfordshire but have accommodation needs and a strong local connection. All come from families who have a tradition of show work.

Figure 6 – Other showpeople identified in Oxfordshire with no fixed address

Current location	Current circumstances	Area of local connection	Description of local connection
Fairground (interview took place on Sutton Green fairground)	Travel for as many months as possible as nowhere to stay and need the money. Stay on fairgrounds and farmland.	South Oxfordshire	Born in Oxfordshire and lived in Oxfordshire whole life. Parents live at Watlington and use services there. Equipment is stored at Abingdon.

Current location	Current circumstances	Area of local connection	Description of local connection
Fairground (interview took place on Sutton Green fairground)	Travel and work throughout Oxfordshire. Nowhere to stay during the summer months and nowhere to store equipment at any time of year	Cherwell	Stay on site in Cherwell in the winter but unable to store equipment there
Doncaster (interview took place over the phone)	Have been staying in Sunderland but had to move off site. Now moved to Doncaster but unsure how long they can remain.	West Oxfordshire	Has lived in county for most of life and elderly mother lives in sheltered accommodation in Oxfordshire. Has bought land in West Oxfordshire but unable to live there because has been refused planning permission. Has applied for planning permission on three different sites in Oxfordshire. Equipment is stored in the county.

- 3.1.6 Tribal received an initial list from the Showman’s Guild comprising 49 members in the Oxfordshire area. All members on this list were sent an initial letter from the Showman’s Guild explaining about the work and a follow up letter from Tribal providing confirmation of dates for the fieldwork. We confirmed through relatives, neighbours and other showpeople that seven people on the list had moved away, died or were elderly and confused.
- 3.1.7 We visited all the sites on the lists provided by the local authorities with the exception of Hebborn’s Yard, Bicester Road, Gosford in Cherwell as we were advised that the site was not occupied during the period of the fieldwork. We did however interview the owner of the site by phone although at the point of the interview he was staying at a site in Oxford City.
- 3.1.8 The only site visited where we were not able to secure any interviews was Sandpit, Baldon Lane, Marsh Baldon in South Oxfordshire. We were however able to confirm that the site is occupied. The local authority confirmed that the planning permission is personal permission granted to the family in current occupation.
- 3.1.9 At the Chipperfields Circus site we were not able to interview the circus people living on the site but arranged an appointment to visit the site and carried out an interview with the owner.
- 3.1.10 We were advised by some of the interviewees that a number of showpeople from the Oxfordshire area were at a fair ground at Kings Sutton during the period of the fieldwork. We took names and contact details and made appointments which resulted in three interviews being carried out at the fairground.

Ethnicity

3.1.11 Of those included in the sample 93% of those interviewed defined themselves as showpeople. Those that defined themselves as non-showpeople said that they had married into the business.

Gender

3.1.12 Within the survey sample the overall percentage of men interviewed was higher at 60% than that of women at 40%. The table below shows a breakdown of the number of men and women included in the survey sample for each district.

Figure 7 – Gender breakdown by district

District	Male	Female	Total
Cherwell	3	4	7
Oxford City	1	0	1
South Oxfordshire	2	1	3
Vale of White Horse	1	0	1
West Oxfordshire	8	7	15
NFA	3	0	3
Total	18	12	30

Age

3.1.13 The table below shows a breakdown of the age groups included within the survey sample for each district. Please note that this shows the age of the interviewee only and is not a full breakdown across all household members.

Figure 8 – Age breakdown

Age bands	Cherwell	Oxford City	S Oxfordshire	Vale of White Horse	W Oxfordshire	NFA	Overall	
							n.	%
18 – 21	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3%
22 – 25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
26 – 30	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3%
31 – 40	2	0	0	0	3	0	5	17%

Age bands	Cherwell	Oxford City	S Oxfordshire	Vale of White Horse	W Oxfordshire	NFA	Overall	
							n.	%
41 – 50	3	0	1	0	2	2	8	27%
51 – 60	0	1	1	1	1	1	5	17%
61 – 65	1	0	1	0	2	0	4	13%
66 – 70	1	0	0	0	2	0	3	10%
Over 70	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	10%

Employment

3.1.14

Of those interviewed within the survey sample 63% were self employed and only 7% were employees. A total of 27% of the showpeople interviewed were retired and 10% were semi retired. The table shows a breakdown of the types of employment of those interviewed by district.

Figure 9 – Employment

Working status	Cherwell	Oxford City	S Oxfordshire	Vale of White Horse	W Oxfordshire	NFA	Overall	
							n.	%
Self employed	5	1	3	1	6	3	19	63%
Full time employed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Part time employed	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	7%
Not employed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Retired	4	0	0	0	4	0	8	27%
Semi retired	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	10%
Student	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3%

- 3.1.15 Interviewees were asked to describe the type of work that household members were involved in. A total of 76% of the people interviewed said that other members of their household were involved in show work. Other types of employment included building work (4) lorry driver (3), electrical technician (2), hairdresser (1), shop work (1), scrap yard (1), carpentry (1) and work in a school (1). Many interviewees said that they have part time jobs to supplement their income from show work. For some, their supplementary work is seasonal and for others it is throughout the year.

4 Survey findings

4.1 Accommodation needs

Current accommodation

4.1.1 Of those interviewed 57% people either owned their own plot of land or it was owned by a member of their household or their family. 20% lived on land owned by a private landlord and 10% lived on land owned by another showperson. 36% of respondents paid rent for the plot of land.

4.1.2 47% of the showpeople interviewed described their current accommodation as meeting their current needs. The remaining 53% described their current needs as not being met because their current accommodation was too small (12), lacking facilities (2) or in the wrong location (2). Of the two interviews with showpeople living in housing, both said that they do not have space to store their equipment in their current accommodation.

4.1.3 Of those interviewed whose accommodation was not meeting their current needs, ten were living in West Oxfordshire, seven in Cherwell and one in South Oxfordshire. The significant numbers stating that there is not enough space on their current site reflects the fact that some sites are currently overcrowded and some have reduced capacity as a result of health and safety requirements enforcing greater space between trailers and not enabling the site to take the number of trailers and caravans that it has planning permission for.

"I would like to stay here but there is not enough room"

4.1.4 Lack of facilities such as parking and poor access along with problems such as flooding, traffic, insecurity, problems with neighbours and lack of footpaths are cited as factors impacting on the unsuitability of current accommodation.

"There is not enough parking for the lorries or room for turning. There is no space for the children and traffic is coming in and out. I don't feel that it's safe."

4.1.5 40% of interviewees said that they needed to move to meet their accommodation needs and none said that they need to move to a different area to meet their needs although one said that he was unsure. Of those that need to move 58% were living in West Oxfordshire, 17% were living in Cherwell, 17% had no fixed address and 8% were living in South Oxfordshire.

Waiting lists

4.1.6 One interviewee said that he was on a waiting list for a private site. He is currently living in a house in Cherwell and his wife's grandfather is proposing a site in West Oxfordshire. If the site is granted planning permission he hopes to move to the site. At present he has to store his equipment on a nearby site. He wants to live on a site with his equipment and has plans to expand the business as his children get older. The site in West Oxfordshire is at an early stage and as yet a planning application has not been submitted.

Location needed

4.1.7 Interviewees were asked to identify which type of location they would prefer to live in – some selected more than one option. Almost half of the interviewees (47%) said they would prefer to live in a rural area, 43% said that they would like to live in a village and

37% said that they would like to live at the edge of a town or city. The table below shows a breakdown of responses by district.

Figure 10 – Location needed

Working status	Cherwell	Oxford City	S Oxfordshire	Vale of White Horse	W Oxfordshire	NFA	Overall	
							n.	%
Centre of town or city	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	7%
Edge of town or city	2	1	1	0	7	0	11	37%
Village	3	1	1	0	7	1	13	43%
Rural	3	0	0	1	8	2	14	47%
Other	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3%

4.1.8 The respondent who replied “other” has no fixed address and said that he did not mind what type of location he lived in.

“Just want to be where we have bought land or anywhere that the Council can offer”

4.1.9 Other important factors influencing the location needed were;

- Near to schools, doctors, shops and hospitals and other amenities such as a post office and a garage
- Good public transport links
- Good road access and turning space
- Away from flood plain
- Quiet
- Close to family

4.1.10 Some stressed the importance of being able to walk to the local schools and nearby amenities. Some respondents at sites in Cherwell commented that although the amenities are within walking distance they and their families are not able to walk because there is not footpath and the road is too dangerous to walk along without a footpath.

4.1.11 A number of respondents talked about the importance of being in a location that is somewhat out of the way.

“We need to be out of the way of houses, on the edge, not in a village, and a bit secluded - down a lane so not in view”

“Even in a village we cause some disruption – we want to be close to a village but not in it.”

4.1.12 Other respondents talked about the value of good community and integration with the community.

“I like villages because close community is important”

“Community spirit is important – getting to know people locally”

Site facilities and conditions

4.1.13 Interviewees were asked to give their views on what facilities are needed on sites, and also asked to describe how this compared to what they already have on the site they currently live on.

4.1.14 The table below shows the percentage of households living on site who currently have access to the following facilities on their site.

Figure 11 – List of facilities currently on site

Facilities	n	%
Space for mobile home / trailer	22	79%
Space for touring caravan	12	43%
Amenity building with toilet facilities	4	14%
Amenity building with kitchen facilities	1	4%
Amenity building with laundry facilities	0	0%
Amenity building with dayroom	0	0%
Amenity building with bedrooms	0	0%
Storage shed	15	54%
Clothes drying space	19	68%
Fresh water	22	79%
Hot water	19	68%
Parking space	19	68%
Hook up to sewerage system	13	46%

Facilities	n	%
Hook up to drainage system	12	43%
Hook up to electrical supply	19	68%
Personal space for storage/maintenance of rides	14	50%
Postal service	22	79%
Fire fighting equipment	21	75%
Refuse collection	20	71%
Recycling facilities	11	39%
Emergency phone	1	4%
Separate area for storage of HGV vehicles/rides	8	29%
Separate area for maintenance of HGV vehicles/rides	10	36%
Access to broadband	12	43%
Play area	4	14%
Communal meeting area	0	0%
Office for site manger	2	7%
Additional parking for visitors	10	36%

4.1.15 The table below shows a count of the number of households that considered each facility to be needed on a site. All respondents were asked these questions about perceived need irrespective of whether they lived on a site or in a house. All interviews were carried out on privately owned sites so many of the amenities are the responsibility of the land owner however the local authorities have responsibility for refuse collection, recycling arrangements and upkeep of adopted roads.

Figure 12 – Facilities needed

Facilities	n	%
Space for mobile home / trailer	27	90%

Facilities	n	%
Space for touring caravan	27	90%
Amenity building with toilet facilities	10	33%
Amenity building with kitchen facilities	5	17%
Amenity building with laundry facilities	6	20%
Amenity building with dayroom	3	10%
Amenity building with bedrooms	3	10%
Storage shed	27	90%
Clothes drying space	24	80%
Fresh water	27	90%
Hot water	22	73%
Parking space	27	90%
Hook up to sewerage system	29	97%
Hook up to drainage system	12	40%
Hook up to electrical supply	29	97%
Personal space for storage/maintenance of rides	27	90%
Postal service	27	90%
Fire fighting equipment	27	90%
Refuse collection	27	90%
Recycling facilities	23	77%
Emergency phone	9	30%
Separate area for storage of HGV vehicles/rides	20	67%
Separate area for maintenance of HGV vehicles/rides	22	73%
Access to broadband	21	70%
Play area	22	73%

Facilities	n	%
Communal meeting area	3	10%
Office for site manager	7	23%
Additional parking for visitors	22	73%

4.1.16 Other facilities needed included:

- Footpath
- Street lighting
- Screening
- Turning circles that are large enough
- Bar or club
- Ice cream van

4.1.17 Comparing what respondents currently have on sites with what is considered to be needed the most significant current gaps in the provision of facilities on current sites are:

- Play area
- Hook up to sewerage system
- Space for a touring caravan
- Personal space for storage/maintenance
- Recycling facilities
- Separate areas for storage of HGV
- Separate areas for maintenance of HGV
- Additional parking for visitors
- Storage shed

4.1.18 37% of respondents said that the size of new sites should be around 2 - 5 plots and 30% that said new sites should be around 6 - 10 plots. 13% of the respondents that said new sites should be 11 - 15 plots and a further 13% said they should be 16 - 20 plots. One respondent commented that the size of the site depends on the size of the family.

“It depends on the size of the family. We have seven plots here but could do with four or five more”

- 4.1.19 Another respondent felt that sites should be a reasonable size because of the current need in the county.

“There are at least 25 families in Oxfordshire with a need that is really urgent”

- 4.1.20 Over half of respondents were positive about the condition of their site. 36% said the conditions on their site were very good and 21% said they were good. Of those that made positive comments about the conditions of their site a number made reference to limited space.

“It’s just the lack of space – everything else is fine”

“It’s a beautiful site and a beautiful village but its just not right for us because of the lack of space”

- 4.1.21 11% said the condition of their site is adequate, 11% described their site as poor and 4% described their site as very poor. Comments from those who rated the conditions of their site less favourably related to lack of space, poor access, through flow of traffic, dust, poor health and safety, and locations away from amenities.

- 4.1.22 Four interviewees had particular concerns about health and safety on two sites. Three of the four live on the same site where the concerns were particularly for the safety of children on the site due to cars coming onto the site quickly and a nearby river. Two women living on the site commented that they do not feel safe at night due to poor street lighting and people walking through the site including gangs of youths. Concerns were raised on both sites about fire safety with one respondent commenting that trailers were parked too close together because of the lack of space.

- 4.1.23 Of those expressing a view about the layout of their site 58% of interviewees felt that the layout of their site was very good and 17% felt that it was good. Of those that made positive comments a separation between residential and equipment was mentioned and the planting of flowers to make it look more attractive. Of the remaining interviewees, 13% felt that the layout was adequate and a further 13% felt that it was very poor. Reasons for rating the layout as adequate or very poor included lack of space for the number of households living there, not enough hard standing, lack of space for lorries and poor access.

“Access is diabolical. The ditch is eroding with the floods and so access is getting worse. The site needs to be bigger and to have two access points – we really need more space.”

- 4.1.24 Of those expressing a view about the location of their site 84% thought that the location was very good and 13% described the location as good. Only 4% described the location as adequate and then the views were that whilst the site itself was not in good situation it was close to amenities. Positive comments about the location of sites were that they were close to amenities, in the middle of a village, away from people.

“It’s perfect. Two minutes walk to the shop, the school is five minutes walk. It’s only ten minutes walk to the doctor’s surgery and five minutes to the dentist. It’s absolutely ideal.”

“It’s lovely here – I like being away from people.”

4.1.25 A number of comments were made about footpaths to amenities on more than one site. On one site interviewees felt a strong need for a footpath and this impacted on how they felt about their location. On another site a footpath had been well received.

“They’ve put a proper footpath in now which is brilliant”

4.1.26 Interviewees were asked how they thought their current site could be improved. Suggestions included:

- More space
- Turning circles
- More storage space
- A bypass
- A footpath to town
- Improved roads
- More hard standing
- More parking control

4.1.27 One interviewee commented on the challenges of making improvements

“It would be good if we could extend the site. If it was Council owned we could ask for help with drainage, gravel and the flooding but it’s difficult for us to do it ourselves because some of the neighbours don’t talk to each other.”

4.2 Storage and maintenance space for fairground rides and equipment

4.2.1 The types of rides and equipment for which storage and maintenance space was needed varied across different households. The majority require space for a variety of vehicles and equipment which may include stalls, small rides, large rides, lorries, HGVs, catering units trailers pick up trucks and generators. On average there is a need for eight rides/stalls and/or vans/lorries. These requirements ranged from a need for space for two stalls, through to a need for space for 43 vehicles or pieces of equipment for one family (which included 20 stalls, four small rides, four large rides and 15 lorries). Three respondents said they had no rides/stalls and/or vans/lorries. The table below shows how the average amount of stalls, ride and equipment per household varies between the districts.

Figure 13 – Average number of stalls and rides per household

Stalls and rides	Cherwell	Oxford City	S Oxfordshire	Vale of White Horse	W Oxfordshire	NFA	Countywide
Average	5	17	18	4	6	13	8

4.2.2 Interviewees were asked where they needed the storage space to be located. The majority (17 out of 21) of the respondents who responded to this question said that the storage space was needed on the same plot. Reasons for this included:

- Security against theft and vandalism
- Health and safety checks
- Maintenance

“We want to be with the equipment so we can look after it. I try to work on the rides everyday because there is so much to do. We also want to keep it near us because of vandals and theft.”

“It needs to be on the same site as me. We have had equipment stolen this year. It was worth £10K and we could not afford to keep it insured”

“Want to keep it on our own plot so it’s not in anyone’s way. It would be nice to have it all at the back, screened off and out of the way but the main thing is to have it close.”

4.2.3 Interviewees were asked where they currently keep their equipment. The majority keep their equipment on their site although some commented that there is not really enough space to do this.

“It’s right in front of my chalet. I don’t really want it there but I don’t have room anywhere else”

“It’s on our site. It’s all there and its ok. It’s a bit tight but we are managing”

4.2.4 The two interviewees living in housing both store their equipment with family members on their sites. Around a quarter of those interviewed (26%) store their equipment in a number of locations as there is not enough space on the site where they are living or they do not have a site to live on.

“We have a bit everywhere. Some in Cassington and some in Cannock Chase. Some is in a farm in Abingdon but we have had things stolen. It’s very awkward, especially getting the maintenance done”

4.2.5 All three interviewees with no fixed address had equipment and/or vehicles spread around in a variety of locations.

“It’s stored all over. Some is in Oxfordshire and other bits are in other parts of the country. If we have to leave it on lay-bys whilst we are waiting to pull onto a fairground it gets pinched. Metal is worth a lot now and they steal the cables which are expensive to replace.”

4.2.6 Interviewees were asked about possible future changes to the amount and type of equipment their household would be using. Of those who expressed a view, two thirds

said that they thought that their business would expand in the future to support a number of children or just to maintain income

“It will get more because my daughter is 20 and will be starting up on her own and all my son’s will be doing more”

“Need more equipment to take the same amount of money. Business is not good so we need to expand the business to make enough money”

4.2.7 A quarter of those expressing a view about changes to the business thought that it would remain the same without significant changes to equipment. One interviewee commented that his business would not grow because of the lack of space to store equipment. Only 8% thought that their business would contract in the future.

4.2.8 Showpeople require space to enable them to carry out maintenance activities on the equipment. All of the interviewees listed carrying out maintenance activities which included

- Servicing
- Inspection and testing
- Building
- Painting
- Cleaning
- Welding
- Carpentry
- Fabrication
- Alterations
- Stripping down
- Electrical maintenance
- General maintenance and repairs

4.2.9 Almost all interviewees felt that space for these activities needs to be on the site for health and safety reasons and to prevent theft and vandalism. Around a third of those who responded to this question have to undertake the maintenance of their equipment away from the site where they live. They often do this on other sites where family members live however one interviewee with no fixed address said they have to carry out maintenance on the road. Others have to travel to the sites where their equipment is stored which may be on more than one site and spread around the country.

4.2.10 Interviewees were asked if their current space meets their current needs for maintenance and storage. Half said that their current space is adequate and half said that their current space does not meet their current needs. They were also asked to comment on whether they thought their current space for maintenance and storage will meet their current needs. 70% of interviewees responding to this question said that their current space would not meet their current needs.

4.2.11 A recent study commissioned by the Showman's Guild in the North West⁴ suggested that an acre of land could accommodate an extended family of 10 showpeople's homes, including room for associated vehicles and equipment. Another study carried out on behalf of the Showmen's Guild London and Home Counties branch⁵ found that accommodation will usually comprise:

- a large showman's caravan (for parents plus one smaller child)
- a touring caravan annex for older (same sex) children
- a small mobile home or touring caravan for retired showpeople
- a touring caravan (larger operators)
- a storage and maintenance yard for showmen's vehicles and equipment.

4.2.12 The latter study concluded that the land requirement for the above needs would be a minimum plot size of 0.22 ha/0.54 acre based on the Showmen's Guild Model (Site Layout) Standards, and that in some cases this would need to be exceeded to secure an acceptable level of screening and environmental integration.

4.3 Preferred tenure of accommodation

4.3.1 Interviewees were asked to rank what they considered to be the most appropriate accommodation for their household. All of the interviewees said that a permanent site would be the most appropriate accommodation. Two interviewees in West Oxfordshire specified that a house on a site would be the most appropriate accommodation for their households.

4.3.2 All of the interviewees who expressed a preference said that the most appropriate accommodation for them would be that which was owned or managed by either themselves or their family.

4.3.3 Interviewees were asked to give their views on how many showpeople are living in housing. 50% of interviewees said that very few showpeople live in houses, with 7% saying less than half of showpeople live in houses and 10% saying that about half of showpeople live in houses. Only one person thought that more than half of showpeople live in houses.

4.3.4 Two respondents were living in a house at the time of the interview. Both had lived in their current house for between five and ten years and lived on a site prior to that. One lived in a house because there were no sites available and the other moved into a house with his mother whilst his father remained on a site. Both said that the most appropriate accommodation for their household would be a permanent site.

4.3.5 61% of those interviewed living on a site had never lived in a house and 11% had lived in a house on a site with 29% having lived in a house not located on a site. The most common reason for moving out of housing was marrying into the business however some people talked about the difficulties they experienced living in housing.

⁴ Power C (2007) *The accommodation situation of Showmen in the Northwest* Showman's Guild, Lancashire Section

⁵ Carried out by Ian Baseley Associates and reproduced here with their kind permission

“Wanted to be near family and friends, harassment from neighbours and missed the traditional lifestyle”.

“They built houses around us and we had all sorts of problems. We didn’t get on with the neighbours and the Council put a CPO on part of our land for a footpath”

4.3.6 We asked those people who had previously lived in a house what impact they thought living in a house had on their ability to pursue their normal line of work. Storage and maintenance of equipment was the most significant problem.

“We still had the site but it was very awkward – lots of to-ing and fro-ing. It was ok living in a house but I prefer living in a caravan – it’s what I’m used to and what I was brought up with.”

4.4 Local connection

Length of time lived at site

4.4.1 The table below shows the length of time that those interviewed have lived in their current accommodation by district. Majority of respondents have lived in their current accommodation for over 10 years.

Figure 14 – Length of time in current accommodation

	Cherwell	Oxford City	S Oxfordshire	Vale of White Horse	W Oxfordshire	n.	%
Three years - less than five years	0	0	0	0	1	1	4%
Five years - less than ten years	3	0	0	0	4	7	26%
More than ten years	4	1	3	1	10	19	70%

4.4.2 Interviewees were asked what their main reasons were for moving to the site they currently live on. Three respondents were born on the sites where they currently live. Reasons listed for moving to sites included:

- To be near family and friends (13)
- Close to fairgrounds/show sites (10)
- Have lived here before (9)
- Employment (7)
- Development on or around previous site (5)
- Unable to access sites or accommodation in another area (4)

- To take up education (3)
- Marriage (3)
- To give care or support (2)
- Eviction (2)
- Problems with neighbours (1)
- Close to transport routes (1)
- Close to amenities (1)

Length of time living in Oxfordshire

4.4.3 All of the showpeople interviewed stated that they have lived in Oxfordshire for over ten years.

Family in the local area

4.4.4 83% of those interviewed said they had other family living in the Oxfordshire area who are not members of their immediate household. 43% have family living on the same site but on a different plot and 53% had family living on another site in the county. 63% have family living in housing (bricks and mortar) within Oxfordshire.

4.4.5 The table below shows a breakdown of where other family lives within Oxfordshire.

Figure 15 – Location of other family members

							Overall	
	Cherwell	Oxford City	S Oxfordshire	Vale of White Horse	W Oxfordshire	NFA	n.	%
On this site but a different plot	3	0	3	0	7	0	13	43%
On a different site	5	0	0	1	7	3	16	53%
In bricks and mortar	4	0	0	1	12	2	19	63%

4.5 Working and travelling patterns and trends

4.5.1 Interviewees were asked if they have travelled for show or fair work in the last three years. Almost all (93%) of showpeople interviewed have travelled in the last three years. Of those who travelled the majority (82%) said they travelled on average more than five times each year.

4.5.2 Two respondents in West Oxfordshire said that they that they no longer travel for shows but both were retired and one was 90 years old.

4.5.3 The majority of showpeople interviewed travel mostly during the summer months. A significant number said that they travel from Easter until November although many return between fairs. Some said that they only travel during the school holidays and during weekends.

“I don’t go far now, not like I used to. Mostly I go to fetes and often just stay for the day and come home here.”

“The business travels from Easter to December but we only take the main home out in the school holidays.”

4.5.4 Those with no fixed address travel for long periods, but this is out of necessity.

“We travel from Easter to December and also travel in February but that is partly because we can’t stay anywhere.”

4.5.5 The table below shows a breakdown of the length of time interviewees normally stay away each time they travel which shows that less than a week and three months and over are the most common periods of travel. In some cases the differences may reflect the gender of the interviewee and tendency for women to spend less time travelling.

Figure 16 – Length of time away each time travelling

	n.	%
Less than a week	13	46%
One week to less than two weeks	3	11%
Two weeks to less than three weeks	1	4%
Four weeks to less than 3 months	1	4%
Three months and over	6	21%

4.5.6 Most of the interviewees (81%) that have travelled for show / fair work in the last three years said that other members of their household travel with them when they go to shows / fairs.

4.5.7 The majority of the showpeople interviewed (89%) that have travelled for show / fair work in the last three years said that they had a similar pattern of show / fair work every year. Only one interviewee said that they would give up their current accommodation when travelling to show / fair work and two said that they do not currently have a plot to give up. Those that do give up their plot to travel commented on the difficulties finding somewhere to stay when they stop travelling.

“There is nowhere to go back to when things come to an end. We struggle to find places to pull on to in winter.”

4.5.8 The interviewees were asked whether they thought that patterns of travelling for show or fair work are likely to change in the next ten years. Three quarters of respondents (73%) said that they thought patterns of work will change.

4.5.9 Many commented on the increased costs of fuel and recent poor weather during the summer months as having a significant impact on business. Other factors having an impact on business are:

- Lack of fairground sites
- Increasing cost of living
- Emission changes in London
- Fair ground charges
- Cost of meeting health and safety requirements
- Competition from alternative activities such as Alton Towers and computer games

4.5.10 Some said that these factors are causing showpeople to travel further for work whilst others said that it is keeping them closer to home.

“I hope things don’t change but feel that they could. The fuel problem is affecting people. My daughter went to Caterton for a week and didn’t make enough money to pay for her fuel there and back”

“I think it will become more settled doing local fairs. These fairs are handed down through generations. I don’t want to give up. I want to pass them on to my children.”

“Everything is so dear now, you have to go further to earn the money. And there is all the testing – it’s very dear as is the petrol.”

4.5.11 The interviewees were asked whether they thought that patterns of employment for showpeople are changing. Most respondents (83%) said that they thought that employment patterns are changing. Many showpeople are having to take additional jobs to supplement their income.

“A lot more are getting jobs on the winter. In the past you could live on the summer earnings and maintain the equipment in the winter but now people have to earn extra money.”

“My daughter is the catering manager at the community college because she can’t get enough money from travelling and also she needs to keep the children in school so they get a good education.”

“More showmen are working out of the business – some might have stopped completely. A lot of them will still want to live on yards – they are used to the community and want to keep to themselves.”

Dependency on work in local area

4.5.12 Interviewees were asked to list all the different places they travelled to for show or fair work. Most said they have a similar pattern of travelling for show work every year.

4.5.13 All of the interviewees who said that they had travelled in the last three years said that they go to fairs in Oxfordshire. A significant number focus their work within the Oxfordshire area and neighbouring counties. Very few travel to fairs in other parts of the county although a small number said that they travel to Jersey, Newcastle, Leicester, Dorset, Somerset and Nottingham.

4.6 Experience of using health, education and training, and housing services

4.6.1 All of showpeople interviewed that responded to this question said that they have used local health, education, support or advice services.

4.6.2 The types of local health services used included:

- GP (28)
- Dentist (22)
- Hospital (15)
- Health visitor (3)
- Midwife service (3)
- Mental health services (2)
- Health volunteers (1)
- Health centre (1)
- Speech therapy (1)
- Nursing home (1)

4.6.3 Some people commented that there are not enough NHS dentists in the area. However all the other comments about health services in the area were positive

“Because I’ve been here all my life and grown up here the doctor and dentist know me and are on the doorstep. The midwife and health visitor were good – my wife felt very supported.”

“All have been brilliant. [Partner] had depression for years and is now on a heavy dose of anti-depressants which keeps things ok. The Community Mental Health Team were very good but we don’t need them anymore”

“The hospital is brilliant. All good. Completely helpful. Two of my children were seriously ill”

4.6.4 80% of showpeople interviewed have either used or are using local education services. Some interviewees said that when their children were travelling they were provided with education packs. Information on education services was obtained from the Traveller Education Service by a number of interviewees. Again, comments about education services were positive

“The Traveller Education Service has been really helpful. They always come out. When we changed schools they helped us to get the children into school

“The school has done nothing but help me”

“Traveller Education are brilliant. They came to an appeal and spoke on our behalf.”

4.6.5 Interviewees said that they had used a number of support and advice services

- Citizens Advice Bureau (3)
- Planning advice (2)
- Showman’s Guild (1)
- Samaritans (1)
- Church counselling service (1)
- Victim Support (1)
- Council (1)
- Mortgage advice (1)
- Community tax advice (1)
- Parish council (1)
- MP (1)
- Library (1)

4.6.6 Interviewees were asked how they travelled to local services. The majority of the services listed were health services, with majority of interviews travelling by car to most services. Some people travel significant distances (up to 80 miles) to hospitals and one person has to travel 20 miles to their dentist. Generally however those interviewed do not travel long distances to access services.

4.6.7 Interviewees were asked whether there was anything that would put them off using local services. The only comment that interviewees made was that they would like to be able to walk to services and they could not because there is no footpath and the road is dangerous. Four people from two different sites made this comment.

4.7 Household characteristics and relationships

4.7.1 The table below shows a breakdown of the size of households. The majority of households contain three or more members.

Figure 17 – Household size

Size of households	TOTAL (n.)	TOTAL (%)
1 member	6	20%

Size of households	TOTAL (n.)	TOTAL (%)
2 members	6	20%
3 members	5	17%
4 members	9	30%
5 members	3	10%
6 members	1	3%

4.7.2 The matrix below shows the range of household compositions for those taking part in the survey. Thirteen households interviewed contained children under 18 years of age.

Figure 18 – Household composition

		Children (under 18)				
		0	1	2	3	4
	1	6	1	0	0	0
	2	5	2	4	1	1
Adults	3	3	3	1	0	0
	4	2	1	0	0	0

4.7.3 The average household size based on table 17 above is three. This is lower than an average of 4.1⁶ for travelling showpeople’s families found during research by Ian Baseley associates on behalf of the Showmen’s Guild in London and Home Counties, but higher than the Berkshire showpeople’s study⁷ which had an average household size of 2.1. The average from this survey is also slightly lower than the average household size of 3.82 for Gypsies and Travellers in the Thames Valley Region⁸ and the 3.3 for the Buckinghamshire showpeople’s study⁹, but slightly higher than the average household of size of 2.41 for the general population within the Oxfordshire area.

4.7.4 Interviewees were asked whether it was important for them to live with other households on their current site. The table below shows a breakdown of responses by district. Over half of respondents (57%) felt it was important for them to live with other households on their current site. Respondents said they would want to live with family and extended family and spoke of the importance of the support and help they receive from the other members of their household.

⁶ Reproduced here with kind permission of Ian Baseley Associates

⁷ Tribal Consulting, *Needs Assessment for Travelling Showpeople in Berkshire* (2007)

⁸ Tribal Consulting, *ACTVaR Gypsy and Traveller needs assessment study*, (2006) p33

⁹ Tribal Consulting, *Needs Assessment for Travelling Showpeople in Buckinghamshire* (2007) p28

Figure 19 – Importance of living with other households on current site

							Overall	
	Cherwell	Oxford City	S Oxfor ds hire	Vale of White Horse	W Oxfor ds hire	NFA	n.	%
Yes	2	1	3	0	8	3	17	57%

4.8 Rate of new household formation and future accommodation requirements

4.8.1 Seven interviewees listed members of their households as needing separate accommodation now. Five needed separate accommodation for one household each and two needed separate accommodation for two households. Therefore there are currently nine concealed households which is equivalent to a concealed household rate of 30%. This compares to 12.5% found in the ACTVaR Gypsy and Traveller needs assessment, 20% found in the Berkshire showpeople’s study, 22% in the Buckinghamshire showpeople’s study and 27% found in a study of Showmen’s accommodation needs in the Northwest¹⁰. The table below shows the location of current concealed households by district.

Figure 20 – Location of current concealed households

							Overall	
	Cherwell	Oxford City	S Oxfordshire	Vale of White Horse	W Oxfordshire	NFA	n.	%
Households with 1 concealed household	0	1	1	0	1	2	5	
Households with 2 concealed households	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	
Total number of concealed households	2	1	1	0	3	2	9	30%

¹⁰ Power, C (2007) *The accommodation situation of Showmen in the Northwest Showman’s Guild*, Lancashire Section

4.8.2 Interviewees were asked to identify who from their current household would need separate accommodation within the next ten years. The table below shows the current location of new households likely to form in the next ten years by district. In total interviewees identified 16 future households which is equivalent to a household growth rate of 53% over ten years. This is higher than other Tribal studies but compares with the percentage growth rate of 56% over a ten year period which was found during a survey for travelling showpeople in the Leicestershire Gypsy and Traveller needs assessment¹¹. It should be noted that it is possible that some of these future households may make choices to move away from the business and the lifestyle. However, interviewees were asked to identify future households who were likely to require site based accommodation within the next ten years.

Figure 21 – Current location of future households

	Cherwell	Oxford City	S Oxfordshire	Vale of White Horse	W Oxfordshire	NFA	Overall	
							n.	%
Households with 1 future household	1	0	1	0	1	3	6	
Households with 2 future households	3	0	0	0	2	0	5	
Total number of future households	7	0	1	0	5	3	16	53 %

4.8.3 Caution must be taken when undertaking studies with such small numbers since the data gathered may not be representative of the wider population. Furthermore small numbers must be treated with caution as small shifts can result in large percentage changes which can lead to the possibility of distortions.

4.8.4 Concealed households needing separate accommodation and future households that will form in the next ten years were all identified as needing a plot on an authorised permanent site. All respondents said that future and current concealed households would want to live on site that was either managed by themselves or another showperson.

4.8.5 The table below shows a breakdown of where those households who need separate accommodation now, or who expect to need separate accommodation over the next ten years, expressed a need to live compared to where they currently live. They could choose more than one option, but respondents generally provided one answer (except those who were of no fixed abode) even if they had more than one current or future concealed household within their household.

¹¹ Niner P (2007) *Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Gypsies' and Travellers' Accommodation Needs Assessment Final Report* Centre for Urban and Regional Studies

Figure 22 - Areas where concealed households that need to move both now and the next ten years expressed a need to live

Current site location ↓	Cherwell	Oxford City	South Oxfordshire	Vale of White Horse	West Oxfordshire	Other county
Cherwell	3	0	0	1	0	1
Oxford City	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Oxfordshire	0	0	1	1	0	0
Vale of White Horse	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Oxfordshire	1	1	1	1	5	0
NFA	2	2	2	2	3	0

4.8.6 The table above shows a trend for concealed households to need to remain in their current district. Reasons listed for this included being near family and friends, close to fairgrounds and show sites, employment, close to amenities, to take up education and having lived here before.

4.8.7 Those with no fixed address were happy to consider more location options generally.

4.8.8 Only one of the households needing separate accommodation now or in the next ten years is currently on a waiting list.

4.9 Need for transit sites/temporary stopping places

4.9.1 Three interviews were carried out with showpeople who had no fixed address. All had a local connection with Oxfordshire and two were currently living in the county. They were staying on show sites and in fields. During the fieldwork one household was found at two different locations. Some said that they use a field in the Vale of White Horse which does not have planning permission or facilities but belongs to a farmer who allows them to stay on his land. Those who have no fixed address did not identify a need for transit sites but said that their households needed space on a permanent site.

4.9.2 There was some evidence from the interviews that patterns of work are changing with more attendance at local fairs and less long periods out on the road reducing the need for temporary stopping places.

4.9.3 The need for transit sites and temporary stopping places within the area are more likely to arise from those outside the county travelling through the county and there was no evidence of this gathered during the study.

4.9.4 A representative from the Traveller Education Service commented on poor accommodation standards on or around fairgrounds in the county for those showpeople

attending fairs. It is likely that this has a greater impact on showpeople not living in the county which could be why it was not picked up in the interviews.

- 4.9.5 A study commissioned by the Lancashire branch of the Showmen's Guild¹² reported that during the working season (mainly March to November), showpeople often require secure places to stay whilst travelling with large fairground equipment for up to three or four days between one fair's end and the next day's fair date (so as to avoid an expensive and often logistically difficult return to the permanent site for a very short period). The supply of such 'sites' was reported to be diminishing.

¹² Power C (2007) *The accommodation situation of Showmen in the Northwest* The Showmen's Guild, Lancashire

5 Calculation of need

5.1 The methodology

5.1.1 In its guidance 'Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments' the CLG has provided a framework for the assessment of the need for new site accommodation. The CLG guidance recommends that the calculation of plot requirements is based upon five core variables:

- Current supply
- Current demand
- Concealed households
- Transfers from Housing
- Family Formation

5.1.2 This section of the report brings together the findings from the stakeholder interviews, literature review and the findings from the analysis of survey data to give an estimate of the need for additional site provision.

5.1.3 We have detailed below the basis upon which each assumption has been developed, drawing on both the survey findings and the results of other similar research where relevant.

5.1.4 It must be stressed that the relatively small numbers of travelling showpeople in the area and the subsequent small sample size obtained for this study do not offer high levels of reliability for the needs calculations. The calculation can be very sensitive to minor adjustments in the assumptions or the supply and demand data.

5.2 The overall population to which the survey findings apply

5.2.1 When working with less than a 100% sample it is necessary to extrapolate up from the survey findings to the overall population to whom the survey findings apply in order to get an overall picture of need. Tribal's estimates of the overall population of showpeople in the study area are built up as follows. **Please note that the 'households' referred to below do not include concealed households (for instance parents and a married son and daughter in law would count as one household) as these have been dealt with separately in our needs calculation. (see 5.7).**

5.2.2 Population living on lawful/authorised private sites – This figure is derived from the 'site map' (see figures 2 and 3) which has been built up from information provided by the local authorities and the Showman's Guild, together with evidence from the Tribal survey. We have assumed those sites for which planning status is currently unknown are lawful/authorised sites. We have used a figure of 51 households on lawful/authorised sites in the county as this is the figure currently living on plots for which there is planning permission. Where the number of households living on a site exceeds capacity according to fire regulations, the additional households have been included in the calculation for unlawful/unauthorised sites.

5.2.3 As not all these households were interviewed we need to assume the total population within them. To do this we have multiplied the number of households by the average household size derived from the survey (3) to give a population figure of 153 living on lawful/authorised sites.

- 5.2.4 Population living on unlawful/unauthorised developments – We were not made aware during the local stakeholder interviews, interviews with showpeople or discussions with the Showman’s Guild of any current or previous incidence of unlawful/unauthorised developments involving showpeople. There are however an estimated six households living on sites which constitute overcrowding since they go beyond the numbers within the stated planning permissions and/or fire regulations. For the purposes of the needs calculations these six households have been categorised as unauthorised.
- 5.2.5 People with no fixed abode – We identified three showpeople households with no fixed address who spend time on fairgrounds or make other temporary arrangements.
- 5.2.6 Population living in housing – We interviewed two households currently living in housing during the survey and received further anecdotal evidence of other showpeople living in housing from the information provided by the local councils, the Showman’s Guild and comments made during interviews with showpeople. Sixty three per cent of interviewees said that other family members lived in housing in Oxfordshire. On this basis we have estimated that 10% of households live in housing in the county and, of this number, 30% would actually move to site accommodation if made available to them. The 30% assumption is the same as used in the ACTVaR Gypsy and Traveller needs assessment. Therefore on this basis we have assumed that there are 6.7 households living in housing in the county. Whilst this calculation is not based on firm evidence, the number produced is consistent with details of housed showpeople provided during the survey. Figure 23 shows an estimate of the population and household figures and figure 24 shows a breakdown of the number of the estimated number of households by district.

Figure 23 – Estimated showpeople population by tenure

	Households	Estimated population	% of showpeople population
Showpeople on authorised private sites (in accordance with fire regs & planning permission)	51	153	77%
Showpeople on authorised sites but exceeding capacity as per fire regs &/or planning permission	6	18	9%
Showpeople with no fixed address	3	9	5%
Showpeople in housing	6.7	20	10%
Total	66.7	200	100%

Figure 24 – Summary of showpeople household figures (estimate)

	Cherwell	Oxford City	South Oxfordshire	Vale of White Horse	West Oxfordshire	Total
Showpeople on authorised private sites (as per fire regulations and planning permission)	11	1	19	3	17	51
Households exceeding capacity for fire regulations and planning permission	2	1	0	0	3	6
Showpeople with no fixed address	1	0	1	0	1	3
Showpeople in housing	1.6	0.2	2.2	0.3	2.3	6.6
Total	15.6	2.2	22.2	3.3	23.3	66.6
% of overall household estimate	23.4%	3.3%	33.3%	5%	35%	100%

5.3 Current supply

5.3.1 We have assumed that all plots on occupied sites identified in the site map (see Figure 2) are lawful/authorised and available for use by showpeople except where they are currently occupied by non-showpeople. This includes currently vacant plots, and plots on sites which are currently up for sale. It should be noted that in both cases there is no guarantee that the relevant plots will be available for occupation by showpeople in the future, as this will be subject to the wishes of the site owner and affected by planning permission where it has been granted specifically to an individual.

5.3.2 We are not aware of any planned extensions to existing sites or unlawful occupied sites.

5.3.3 We have assumed a vacancy rate of 4% per year. The ACTVaR and Nottinghamshire Gypsy and Traveller needs assessments both (using different sources of information) found a vacancy rate of 8%. For this study however there was very limited evidence of turnover and population movement, so we have made the assumption that the turnover would be at a lower level of 4%. It should be noted however that, even when vacancies do arise there is often no guarantee that the vacant plots will be let to show people or necessarily to people from Oxfordshire, due to their private ownership and control.

5.3.4 We have identified sites with capacity that has been reduced below existing planning permission due to changes in the health and safety regulations which have necessitated larger spaces between trailers. Where this has arisen we have assumed the capacity on the site to be determined by the numbers it can accommodate whilst meeting fire regulations rather than the numbers in the existing planning permission.

5.4 Demand arising from unauthorised developments

5.4.1 We identified two sites without planning permission within this study however neither of these sites are occupied. We have identified overcrowding on sites where planning permission is granted for a smaller number than those present. In accordance with CLG guidance we have assumed that all of these households are in need of site accommodation.

5.5 Demand arising from unauthorised encampments

5.5.1 The study did not identify any specific need for emergency stopping places in the county for showpeople working in or passing through the county. The three households interviewed with no fixed address all expressed a need for a permanent site rather than temporary provision.

5.5.2 For this reason we have not drawn any conclusions on the need for emergency stopping places in the county of Oxfordshire from this study and suggest that this should be a particular focus of future monitoring activity.

5.6 Demand arising from other sources

5.6.1 We have some evidence of travelling showpeople living in housing in the county and have assumed that the population living in housing is 10% of the population. We have also assumed that 30% of those living in housing would take up a place on a site if available. This is based on the assumption used in the ACTVaR Gypsy and Traveller needs assessment.

5.7 Concealed and future emerging needs

5.7.1 Section 4.8 describes the survey findings in relation to currently concealed households and anticipated household growth over the next ten years. The rate of concealed households is higher than that found in the ACTVaR Gypsy and Traveller needs assessment. This may be due to the small size of our sample or due to a greater shortage of sites for showpeople compared to those groups. Although higher rates were found by other studies of showpeople's needs, this may also be due to greater shortages of sites in those areas. For these reasons we have used the local survey finding of 30%.

5.7.2 The household growth figure found in the survey of 53% over ten years is higher than that found in the ACTVaR Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs assessment, and slightly lower than the rate found in a study in Leicestershire where the household growth for showpeople was assumed to be 56% over a ten year period¹³. In the absence of alternative more reliable evidence we have therefore used the percentage suggested by the survey findings.

¹³ Niner P (2007) *Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Gypsies' and Travellers' Accommodation Needs Assessment Final Report Centre for Urban and Regional Studies*

5.8 Distinguishing between need and preferences

5.8.1 One of the issues that arises in relation to assessment of the accommodation needs of travelling showpeople needs is the extent to which households should be entitled to have their needs met for accommodation through site based provision rather than through conventional housing. The CLG guidance infers that the primary need will be for site based accommodation.

5.9 Summary of needs for the Oxfordshire area

5.9.1 The table below shows the results of the needs assessment at county level, using the assumptions set out above and based around the CLG guidance.

5.9.2 Once again it must be stressed that the small numbers of travelling showpeople in the area and the subsequent small sample size obtained for this study do not offer high levels of reliability for the needs calculations. The calculation can be very sensitive to minor adjustments in the assumptions or the supply and demand data.

Figure 25 – Accommodation needs assessment for the county

CURRENT RESIDENTIAL SUPPLY		
A Current supply of socially rented residential site plots in county	0	Based on information from local authorities
B Current supply of lawful/authorised privately owned site plots in county	58	Based on data from the survey and the local authorities (see table 2)
C Total plots on lawful/authorised sites (A + B)	58	
D Number of lawful/authorised plots not available for letting (due to management problems, awaiting refurbishment etc)	0	
E Number of available plots (C – D)	58	
F Currently vacant plots	6	
G Number of existing plots expected to become vacant and lettable through normal annual turnover (LA and privately owned)	2.3	Based on an assumption that 4% of private plots will become vacant each year (4% of E)
H Number of households in site accommodation expressing a desire to live in housing	0	Number of households on authorised sites who would take up housing(off site) if offered (as per survey findings)
I New local authority plots already planned	0	There are no known new sites planned at present
J Existing applications for private site development / extension likely to gain approval	0	There are no known plans for site development or extension at present

K Net Available Supply (F + G + H + I + J)	8.3	
CURRENT NEED		
L Households who are currently of no fixed abode	3	No record of unlawful/unauthorised encampments involving showpeople but three households with no fixed address
M Households on unlawful/unauthorised developments	6	Total number of households living on authorised sites outside the terms of the fire regulations and planning permission for that site
N Concealed households in this study area currently in need of accommodation	20	Based on 30% concealed households (based on survey findings) requiring site accommodation from a total assumed number of 66.7 households.
O In housing but with a need for site accommodation	1.9	Based on 30% of estimated 6.3 households living in housing
P Current Gross Need (L+M + N + O)	30.9	
Q Current Net Need (P - K)	22.6	
R Additional household formation 2008 – 2018	31.8	Number of new households likely to form in next ten years who will wish to take up site accommodation. Based on 53% household growth taken from the survey (using the overall household estimate but excluding those in housing i.e.60)
S Gross need to 2018 (Q + R)	54.4	
T Supply of plots available from current supply over 2009 – 2018	20.7	Assumes: Vacancies arising on lawful/authorised sites over a ten year periods due to normal net turnover of 4% (9 x 2.3 = 20.7)
U Net need for additional permanent plots 2008 – 2018 (S - T)	33.7	

5.9.3 At present some of the planning permission on certain sites is for winter occupation only. It should be noted that this needs assessment has been calculated on the basis that all existing planning permission be extended to all year round permission.

5.9.4 Figure 26 below provides a breakdown of needs calculated for each district. This table has been developed from a detailed calculation which is laid out in full in **Appendix F**. This calculation uses information gathered at a district level which has resulted in slight variances between the countywide calculation and the sum of the district calculations. With such small populations in each district, detailed calculation of needs arising at the district level should be treated with caution. It should be noted that this should not be assumed to be a recommendation that needs are necessarily met in the district within which they arise.

Figure 26 – Accommodation needs assessment figures by district

District	Net backlog of need	Net need arising from household formation with next 10 years.	Net need for additional permanent plots 2008-2018
Cherwell	4.72	6.99	11.71
Oxford City	2.32	0.28	2.60
South Oxfordshire	3.58	3.73	7.31
Vale of White Horse	0.57	0.14	0.71
West Oxfordshire	9.47	3.39	12.86

6 Concluding remarks

6.1 Local needs

- 6.1.1 The results of the survey appear to have confirmed the assumptions contained within recent CLG guidance on the lifestyle and needs of travelling showpeople, namely that many showpeople now need site accommodation for more than the winter period and prefer to have permanent accommodation which they can return to in-between fairs as much as possible. This was considered particularly important in order to ensure that the children receive an education.
- 6.1.2 There was an expressed desire to continue with the traditional lifestyle amongst the vast majority of respondents. Even those who no longer work within the show or fair business consider it important to live on a site and there was a suggestion of the need for site for non operational showpeople.
- 6.1.3 The majority of the interviewees reported long connections with the county and all reported travelling to fairs in their own district as well as adjoining districts in many cases. This indicates strong local connections.
- 6.1.4 There was only very limited evidence of people wishing to move to other areas of the country. The majority of those expressing a wish wanted to stay in the same area, and often on the same site. The survey was unable to reveal the extent and impact of inward migration, and so we have not attempted to quantify the need for site provision in the county from people currently living outside the region. The factors affecting inward and outward migration can be highly unpredictable and open to a variety of influences. This will include enforcement action in authorities some miles away as well as in neighbouring areas (which may prompt family members to come to the region) as well as the availability of new site provision.
- 6.1.5 Where there are established communities it is highly likely that new households forming from those communities will wish to remain in the immediate area, and often on the same site as the rest of their family. It may be possible to cater for some of this need through extensions to existing lawful/authorised sites.
- 6.1.6 As for Gypsies and Travellers, many showpeople interviewed expressed a strong desire to live together with other members of their family and, if not, with other showpeople. It is possible that this need is greater than an attachment to a particular local area for some households.
- 6.1.7 The accommodation needs assessment has suggested a need for an increase in the number of plots on permanent lawful/authorised sites over the next ten years of around 34 plots. It should be noted however that the overall assessment is based on assumptions that have been developed with a small sample frame and extrapolation from small numbers should be treated with caution. This estimate also assumes that six plots that are currently vacant will be made available for occupation by showpeople, and that a further four that are currently for sale will continue to be available to showpeople in the future. However there is no guarantee that this will be the case. If these ten plots are not available for use by showpeople in the future, the projections of need will need to be adjusted upwards accordingly.

6.2 Preferred tenure

- 6.2.1 Although there was some evidence that some showpeople in the area live in housing there were consistent messages from respondents to the survey that it is site based accommodation and not housing that is needed to meet the needs of travelling showpeople. The survey results further suggest that it is assistance to identify sites for

6.3 Site design

- 6.3.1 The survey findings highlight the importance placed by travelling showpeople on being able to store their rides etc close at hand on their site. The Showman's Guild has recommended that plot sizes of 100' by 150' are required to accommodate these needs.
- 6.3.2 The CLG site design guidance for Gypsy and Traveller sites also mentions the need to take account of storage for fairground rides and equipment when planning sites for travelling showpeople.

6.4 Transit/emergency stopping places

- 6.4.1 This study did not identify any clear evidence of a need for additional stopping places in the county or adjoining areas although the Traveller Education Service identified a need for improvements to accommodation conditions on fairgrounds in the county. There can be logistical difficulties (as well as considerable expense) associated with interviewing a sufficient sample of households engaged in unauthorised camping due to the need to have interviewers available to carry out those interviews at short notice during the complete working season. A more pragmatic approach may be for the councils to begin to keep formal records of such encampments when they occur, and where possible, interview the households involved to gain a more accurate picture of their needs.

6.5 Involving the local community

- 6.5.1 In deciding how to respond to the needs identified during this study the authorities should involve the local communities to ensure that the solutions identified will work in practice and adequately reflect the needs and preferences of the intended recipients. This could involve, for instance, involving community and/or Guild members in site identification.

Appendix A – Survey form for showpeople living on sites

Oxfordshire Show Peoples' Needs Assessment – Site

Initials of interviewer.....

Date of interview.....

District.....

Site name/location.....

Number of plots (a "plot" is defined as the area set aside for one family unit and the area set aside for the storage and maintenance of their equipment¹)
.....

Layout of site e.g. linear, circular, horseshoe, L shape.....

Please use the comments page at the back of this questionnaire for any additional information that may come up in the interview

Please try and capture comments made during the interview as we may use them as quotes to illustrate points

A. Accommodation

1. Who owns this plot of land?

Me		1
Another member of my household		2
Myself jointly with other members of my family		3
Another Show Person		4
Private landowner/landlord		5
Don't know		6
Other (please explain below)		7

¹ Taken from Planning for Travelling Showpeople – CLG Circular 04/2007

2. Do you pay rent for the plot?

Yes		1
No		2

3. How long have you lived on this site? *If you are often away for periods for fairs please state when you first started using this site*

Less than a month		1
One month – less than 6 months		2
6 months – less than a year		3
One year – less than two years		4
Two years – less than three years		5
Three years – less than five years		6
Five years – less than ten years		7
More than ten years		8

4. What were your main reasons for moving to this site?

To be near family and friends		1
Employment		2
To give care or support		3
To receive care or support		4
Unable to access sites/accommodation in another area		5
To take up health services in this area		6
To take up education for the family in the area		7
Disability		8
Cultural reasons		9
Close to transport routes (e.g. major roads)		10
Eviction – (required to move by police, local authority, landowner or landlord)		11
Have lived here before		12
Close to amenities		13
Close to fairgrounds/show sites		14
Other (please describe below)		15

5. How long have you lived in Oxfordshire?

Under 6 months		1
Over 6 months – 1 year		2
Over 1 – 3 years		3
Over 3 – 5 years		4
Over 5 – 10 years		5
Over 10 years		6

6. Do you have family living in Oxfordshire (who are not part of your existing household)?

Yes, on this site but different plot		1
Yes, on a different site		2
Yes, in bricks and mortar		3
No		4

7. Which of the following would you consider to be the most appropriate accommodation for your household? (Please rank them in order of preference if possible – 1= most attractive option)

Permanent site		1
Temporary site		2
Housing (bricks and mortar) on a site		3
Housing (bricks and mortar) not on a site		4
Grouped housing		5
Other (please describe below)		6

8. Who would you prefer to own/manage this accommodation? (Please rank them in order of preference if possible – 1= most attractive option)

Council		1
Housing association		2
Me or my family		3
Another Show Person		4
Private landowner/landlord		5
Other		6
Don't know		7

9. Does your current accommodation meet your current needs?

Yes		1
No		2

If "no" to question 10 please describe why your accommodation doesn't meet your needs? Tick all of those that apply and place emphasis on needs rather than aspirations

- 10.

Too small		1
Lacking facilities		2
Don't want to be in this location		3
Don't like the management of the site		4
Other (please describe below)		5

11. Do you need to move to meet your accommodation needs?

Yes		1
No		2
Comments		

If yes go to question 12 and if no go to question 16.

12. Do you need to move to a different area?

Yes		1
No		2
Don't know/unsure		3

13. If so, where do you need to live? (Please tick any district that applies)

Cherwell		1
Oxford City		2
South Oxfordshire		3
Vale of White Horse		4
West Oxfordshire		5
Other county (please specify)		6
Other county (please specify)		7
Other (please specify)		8

14. What is your main reason for needing to be in that location? (Tick all that apply)

To be near family and friends		1
Employment		2
To give care or support		3
To receive care or support		4
Unable to access sites/accommodation in another area		5
To take up health services in that area		6
To take up education for the family in the area		7
Disability		8
Cultural reasons		9
Close to transport routes (e.g. major roads)		10
Eviction – (required to move by police, local authority, landowner or landlord)		11
Have lived there before		12
Close to amenities		13
Close to fairgrounds/show sites		14
Other (please describe below)		15

15. Would it be important for you to live with other households on your current site?

Yes		1
No		2
Don't know/unsure		3
<i>If yes please explain why</i>		

16. How many rides/stalls does your **individual household** need storage space for?

	<i>Insert number</i>	
Stalls		1
Small rides		2
Large rides		3
Other (please specify)		4

17. Where does that storage space need to be and why?

18. Where do you currently store your equipment?

19. Do you think your family will make any changes in the amount and type of equipment they will be using in the future? If yes please say what you think these changes may be.

20. What type of maintenance activities do you need space for on your plot?

21. Where does this maintenance space need to be and why?

22. Where do you currently do your maintenance work?

23. Does the space you have meet your current needs for maintenance and storage?

24. Do you think the space you have at the moment will meet your future needs?

--

25. Are you currently on a waiting list for accommodation? (Tick all that apply)

No		1
Social rented site - local authority (please specify which one)		2
Social rented site (housing association or local authority)		3
Private site		4
Private landlords list		5
Waiting list for social rented housing		6
Other (please describe below)		7

26. What type of location would you prefer to live in?

Centre of town or city		1
Edge of town or city		2
Village		3
Rural (out of town/city/village)		4
Other (please specify)		5

27. Is there anything else about the location that would be important?

--

B. Site facilities and conditions

We would like to know your views on what amenities are needed on sites, and how this compares to what you have on the site you live on (Remember to use the back page for any additional information given)

1. Please indicate what facilities you have now and what you think are needed on individual plots on sites for Showpeople tick all that apply

	Have now	Need
Space for mobile home/trailer	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Space for touring caravan	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Amenity building with toilet facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Amenity building with bathing facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Amenity building with kitchen facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Amenity building with laundry facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
Amenity building with dayroom	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
Amenity building with bedrooms	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
Storage shed	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 9
Clothes drying space	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 10
Fresh water	<input type="checkbox"/> 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 11
Hot water	<input type="checkbox"/> 12	<input type="checkbox"/> 12
Parking space	<input type="checkbox"/> 13	<input type="checkbox"/> 13
Hook up to sewerage system	<input type="checkbox"/> 14	<input type="checkbox"/> 14
Hook up to drainage system	<input type="checkbox"/> 15	<input type="checkbox"/> 15
Hook up to electrical supply	<input type="checkbox"/> 16	<input type="checkbox"/> 16
Personal space for storage/maintenance of rides i.e. (on own plot)	<input type="checkbox"/> 17	<input type="checkbox"/> 17

2. Please indicate what additional facilities are needed on a site and what you have now

	Have now	Need
Postal service	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Fire fighting equipment	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Refuse collection	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Recycling facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Emergency phone	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Separate area for storage of HGV vehicles/rides	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
Separate area for maintenance of HGV	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 7

vehicles/rides		
Access to broadband	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
Play area	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 9
Communal meeting area	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 10
Office for site manager	<input type="checkbox"/> 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 11
Additional parking for visitors	<input type="checkbox"/> 12	<input type="checkbox"/> 12
Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> 13	<input type="checkbox"/> 13
Please provide additional detail below where required		

3 What size do you think new sites should be?

Single plot	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
2 - 5 plots	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
6 - 10 plots	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
11 - 15 plots	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
16 - 20 plots	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
21 - 25 plots	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
26 - 30 plots	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
Over 30 plots	<input type="checkbox"/> 8

4. What are your views on the conditions of the site you live on now?

Very Good	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Good	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Very Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
<i>Comments</i>	

5a. Is there a repairs service?

Yes		1
No		2
Don't know / unsure		3

5b If yes, what do you think about the repairs service?

Very Good	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Good	<input type="checkbox"/> 2

Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Very Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> 5

6. Do you have any particular concerns about health and safety on the site?

Yes		1
No		2

If yes, add detail here:

7. What do you think about the layout of the site?

Very Good	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Good	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Very Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
<i>Comments</i>	

8. What do you think about the location of the site?

Very Good	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Good	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Very Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
<i>Comments</i>	

9. How could your current site be improved?

C. About you

1. Gender	Male	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
	Female	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
2. Age	18 – 21	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
	22 – 25	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
	26 – 30	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
	31 – 40	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
	41 – 50	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
	51 – 60	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
	61 – 65	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
	66 – 70	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
	Over 70	<input type="checkbox"/> 9
3. In which group do you feel you belong?	Show People	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
	Circus person	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
	Other (please describe below)	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Other		
4. Working Status (<i>tick any that apply</i>)	Self employed	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
	Full time employment	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
	Part time employment	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
	Not employed	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
	Retired	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
	Semi-retired	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
	Other (please describe below)	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
Other		

9. What is their main reason for needing to be in that location? (Tick all that apply)

To be near family and friends		1
Employment		2
To give care or support		3
To receive care or support		4
Unable to access sites/accommodation in another area		5
To take up health services in that area		6
To take up education for the family in the area		7
Disability		8
Cultural reasons		9
Close to transport routes (e.g. major roads)		10
Eviction – (required to move by police, local authority, landowner or landlord)		11
Have lived there before		12
Close to amenities		13
Close to fairgrounds/show sites		14
Don't know		15
Other (please describe below)		16

10. Are they currently on a waiting list for accommodation in that area? (Tick all that apply)

No		1
Social rented site (local authority)		2
Social rented site (housing association)		3
Private site		4
Private landlords list		5
Don't know		6
Other (please describe below)		7

E. Show work patterns

1. Have you travelled for show or fair work in the last three years?

Yes		1
No		2

2. If yes, how many times do you travel on average *each year*?

Once		1
Twice		2
Three times		3
Four times		4
Five times		5
More than five times		6

3. What times of year do you travel?

4. Please tell me about **all** of the different places you travel to:

5. How long do you normally stay away for each time?

Less than a week		1
One week to less than two weeks		2
Two weeks to less than three weeks		3
Three weeks to less than four weeks		4
Four weeks to less than 3 months		5
Three months and over		6

6. Do other members of your household travel with you when you go to shows/fairs?

Yes		1
No		2

Please explain

7. Do you have a similar pattern of show and fair work every year?

Yes		1
No		2

8. Do you give up your current accommodation when you travel for show and fair work?

Yes		1
No		2
Don't know/unsure		3

Please explain

9. Do you experience any difficulties securing a plot when you return from show or fair work?

Yes		1
No		2
Sometimes		3

Please explain

10. Do you think that patterns of travelling for show or fair work are likely to change in the next ten years?

Yes		1
No		2
Don't know		3

Please explain

11. Do you think that employment patterns for Showpeople are changing?

Yes		1
No		2
Don't know		3

Please explain

F. Views and experience of living in housing

1. We know that Show People sometimes live in housing – which of the following statements is closest to your idea about how many that is?

	On site	Off site	
Most Show People now live in houses			1
More than half of Show People now live in houses			2
About half of Show People now live in houses			3
Less than half of Show People live in houses			4
Very few Show People live in houses			5

2. Have you ever lived in a house

	On site	Off site	
Yes			1
No			2

If no, move on to Section (H). If yes, go to question 3.

3. For how long did you live in a house?

Less than 6 months		1
Between 6 months & a year		2
1 – 2 years		3
3 – 5 years		4
More than 5 years		5

4. Why did you live in a house?

No sites available at time		1
Needed to be near family/friends		2
Wanted to be near schools		3
Health reasons		4
Thought it would be a good experience		5
Other		6

5. Why did you move out of the house?

Site became available		1
Wanted to be near friends & family		2
Harassment from neighbours		3
Missed the traditional lifestyle		4
Employment		5
Other		6

6. How long ago did you live in a house?

Less than 6 months		1
Between 6 months & a year		2
1 – 2 years		3
3 – 5 years		4
More than 5 years		5

7. Have you moved from a house to a site more than once?

Yes		1
No		2

8. What impact, if any, did living in a house have on your ability to pursue your normal line of work? *e.g. were you able to find a place to store your ride(s)*

H. Health, education, support and advice services

1. Do you now or have you in the past used any local health, education, support and advice services? If so which ones?

Yes		1
No		2

	Name of service (s)	Location of service (name of town, village etc)
Health		
Education		
Support & advice services		
Other		

2. Were any of the services you have used particularly good? If so which service(s) and what was good about the service?

3. Have you experienced any difficulties using local services? If yes please describe

4. How far do you travel to services?

Name of service	Miles or	Number of minutes travel	By foot or	Car or	Public transport

5. Is there anything that puts you off using local services? If so please describe.

Any additional comments or notes

Please use this section to add any additional information that comes up in the interview

I **Feedback**

1. Would you be interested in finding out about the results of this survey?

Yes		1
No		2

If no, end the interview here

2. If yes, how can we send the results to you?

By post (<i>take details of postal address on separate page</i>)		1
By email (<i>take email address on separate page</i>)		2
Other e.g. through the local authority or Showman's Guild (please explain)		3

--	--	--

3. Would you be interested in being on the consultation list for the Local Development Framework? *If yes or a possible yes leave the information sheet with contact details for each local authority*

Yes		1
No		2
Don't know		3

--	--	--

Appendix B – Survey form for showpeople living in houses

Oxfordshire Show Peoples' Needs Assessment – Housing

Initials of interviewer.....

Date of interview.....

District.....

Is the house on a site

Site name if house is on a site.....

Please use the comments page at the back of this questionnaire for any additional information that may come up in the interview

Please try and capture comments made during the interview as we may use them as quotes to illustrate points

A. Accommodation

1. Who owns this house?

Me	1
Another member of my household	2
Myself jointly with other members of my family	3
Another Show Person	4
Private landlord	5
Social landlord	6
Don't know	7
Other (please explain below)	8

1.

2. How long have you lived here?

Less than a month	1
One month – less than 6 months	2
6 months – less than a year	3
One year – less than two years	4
Two years – less than three years	5
Three years – less than five years	6
Five years – less than ten years	7
More than ten years	8

3. Why do you live in a house?

No sites available at time	1
Needed to be near family/friends	2
Wanted to be near schools	3
Health reasons	4
Thought it would be a good experience	5
Other	6

4. Have you ever lived on a site?

Yes	1
No	2

5. What were your main reasons for moving to this house?

To be near family and friends	1
Employment	2
To give care or support	3
To receive care or support	4
Unable to access sites/accommodation in another area	5
To take up health services in this area	6
To take up education for the family in the area	7
Disability	8
Close to transport routes (e.g. major roads)	10
Eviction – (required to move by police, local authority, landowner or landlord)	11
Have lived here before	12
Close to amenities	13
Close to fairgrounds/show sites	14
Other (please describe below)	15

6. How long have you lived in Oxfordshire?

Under 6 months		1
Over 6 months – 1 year		2
Over 1 – 3 years		3
Over 3 – 5 years		4
Over 5 – 10 years		5
Over 10 years		6

7. Do you have family living in Oxfordshire (*who are not part of your existing household*)?

Yes, on this site but different plot		1
Yes, on a different site		2
Yes, in bricks and mortar		3
No		4

8. Which of the following would you consider to be the most appropriate accommodation for your household? (*Please rank them in order of preference if possible – 1= most attractive option*)

Permanent site		1
Temporary site		2
Housing (bricks and mortar) on a site		3
Housing (bricks and mortar) not on a site		4
Grouped housing		5
Other (please describe below)		6

9. Who would you prefer to own/manage this accommodation? (*Please rank them in order of preference if possible – 1= most attractive option*)

Council		1
Housing association		2
Me or my family		3
Another Show Person		4
Private landowner/landlord		5
Other		6
Don't know		7

10. Does your current accommodation meet your current needs?

Yes		1
No		2

If "no" to question 10 please describe why your accommodation doesn't meet your needs? *Tick all of those that apply and place emphasis on needs rather than aspirations*

11.

Too small		1
Lacking facilities		2
Don't want to be in this location		3
Don't like the management of the site		4
Would prefer to live in a caravan on a site		5
Other (please describe below)		6

12. Do you need to move to meet your accommodation needs?

Yes		1
No		2
Comments		

If yes go to question 13 and if no go to question 17.

13. Do you need to move to a different area?

Yes		1
No		2
Don't know/unsure		3

14. If so, where do you need to live? (*Please tick any district that applies*)

Cherwell		1
Oxford City		2
South Oxfordshire		3
Vale of White Horse		4
West Oxfordshire		5
Other county (please specify)		6
Other county (please specify)		7
Other (please specify)		8

15. What is your main reason for needing to be in that location? (Tick all that apply)

To be near family and friends		1
Employment		2
To give care or support		3
To receive care or support		4
Unable to access sites/accommodation in another area		5
To take up health services in that area		6
To take up education for the family in the area		7
Disability		8
Cultural reasons		9
Close to transport routes (e.g. major roads)		10
Eviction – (required to move by police, local authority, landowner or landlord)		11
Have lived there before		12
Close to amenities		13
Close to fairgrounds/show sites		14
Other (please describe below)		15

16. Would it be important for you to live with other households nearby?

Yes		1
No		2
Don't know/unsure		3

If yes please explain why

17. How many rides/stalls does your **individual household** need storage space for?

	<i>Insert number</i>	
Stalls		1
Small rides		2
Large rides		3
Other (please specify)		4

18. Where does that storage space need to be and why?

19. Where do you currently store your equipment?

20. Do you think your family will make any changes in the amount and type of equipment they will be using in the future? If yes please say what you think these changes may be.

21. What type of maintenance activities do you need space for on your plot?

22. Where does this maintenance space need to be and why?

23. Where do you currently do your maintenance work?

24. Does the space you have meet your current needs for maintenance and storage?

25. Do you think the space you have at the moment will meet your future needs?

26. Are you currently on a waiting list for accommodation? (*Tick all that apply*)

No		1
Social rented site - local authority (please specify which one)		2
Social rented site (housing association or local authority)		3
Private site		4
Private landlords list		5
Waiting list for social rented housing		6
Other (please describe below)		7

27. What type of location would you prefer to live in?

Centre of town or city		1
Edge of town or city		2
Village		3
Rural (out of town/city/village)		4
Other (please specify)		5

28. Is there anything else about the location that would be important?

B. Site facilities and conditions

We would like to know your views on what amenities are needed on sites, and how this compares to what you have on the site you live on
(Remember to use the back page for any additional information given)

1. Please indicate what facilities you have now and what you think are needed on **individual plots** on sites for Showpeople *tick all that apply*

	Need
Space for mobile home/trailer	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Space for touring caravan	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Amenity building with toilet facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Amenity building with bathing facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Amenity building with kitchen facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Amenity building with laundry facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
Amenity building with dayroom	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
Amenity building with bedrooms	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
Storage shed	<input type="checkbox"/> 9
Clothes drying space	<input type="checkbox"/> 10
Fresh water	<input type="checkbox"/> 11
Hot water	<input type="checkbox"/> 12
Parking space	<input type="checkbox"/> 13
Hook up to sewerage system	<input type="checkbox"/> 14
Hook up to drainage system	<input type="checkbox"/> 15
Hook up to electrical supply	<input type="checkbox"/> 16
Personal space for storage/maintenance of rides i.e. (on own plot)	<input type="checkbox"/> 17

If interviewee lives in a house on a site complete both columns and if interviewee lives in a house not on a site complete the "Need" column only

2. Please indicate what additional facilities are needed on a site and what you have now

	Have now	Need
Postal service	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Fire fighting equipment	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2

Refuse collection	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Recycling facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Emergency phone	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Separate area for storage of HGV vehicles/rides	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
Separate area for maintenance of HGV vehicles/rides	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
Access to broadband	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
Play area	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 9
Communal meeting area	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 10
Office for site manager	<input type="checkbox"/> 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 11
Additional parking for visitors	<input type="checkbox"/> 12	<input type="checkbox"/> 12
Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> 13	<input type="checkbox"/> 13
Please provide additional detail below where required		

3. What size do you think new sites should be?

Single plot	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
2 - 5 plots	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
6 - 10 plots	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
11 - 15 plots	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
16 - 20 plots	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
21 - 25 plots	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
26 - 30 plots	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
Over 30 plots	<input type="checkbox"/> 8

If interviewee lives in a house on site complete questions 4-9. If the house is not on a site move to the next section

4. What are your views on the conditions of the site you live on now?

Very Good	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Good	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Very Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Comments	

5a. Is there a repairs service?

Yes		1
No		2
Don't know / unsure		3

5b. If yes, what do you think about the repairs service?

Very Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	4
Very Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	5

6. Do you have any particular concerns about health and safety on the site?

Yes		1
No		2

If yes, add detail here:

7. What do you think about the layout of the site?

Very Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	4
Very Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	5

Comments

8. What do you think about the location of the site?

Very Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	4

Very Poor 5

Comments

9. How could your current site be improved?

4. If yes please provide details

	Household 1	Household 2	Household 3
Number of adults			
Number of children			

5. How many members of your household do not need separate accommodation now but are likely to need it within the next 10 years?

Number of additional households	
---------------------------------	--

6. What type of accommodation does/will that separate households need?

Authorised permanent site		1
Housing (bricks and mortar) on a site		2
Housing (bricks and mortar) not on a site		3
Don't know		4
Other (please describe below)		5

7. Who would they prefer to manage this accommodation?

Council		1
Housing Association		2
Manage themselves		3
Another Show Person		4
Private landowner/landlord		5
Other		6
Don't know		7

8. Where do they need to live? (Please tick any district that applies)

Cherwell		1
Oxford City		2
South Oxfordshire		3
Vale of White Horse		4
West Oxfordshire		5
Other county (please specify)		6
Other county (please specify)		7
Other (please specify)		8

9. What is their main reason for needing to be in that location? (Tick all that apply)

To be near family and friends		1
Employment		2
To give care or support		3
To receive care or support		4
Unable to access sites/accommodation in another area		5
To take up health services in that area		6
To take up education for the family in the area		7
Disability		8
Cultural reasons		9
Close to transport routes (e.g. major roads)		10
Eviction – (required to move by police, local authority, landowner or landlord)		11
Have lived there before		12
Close to amenities		13
Close to fairgrounds/show sites		14
Don't know		15
Other (please describe below)		16

10. Are they currently on a waiting list for accommodation in that area? (Tick all that apply)

No		1
Social rented site (local authority)		2
Social rented site (housing association)		3
Private site		4
Private landlords list		5
Don't know		6
Other (please describe below)		7

E. Show work patterns

1. Have you travelled for show or fair work in the last three years?

Yes		1
No		2

2. If yes, how many times do you travel on average *each year*?

Once		1
Twice		2
Three times		3
Four times		4
Five times		5
More than five times		6

3. What times of year do you travel?

4. Please tell me about all of the different places you travel to:

5. How long do you normally stay away for each time?

Less than a week		1
One week to less than two weeks		2
Two weeks to less than three weeks		3
Three weeks to less than four weeks		4
Four weeks to less than 3 months		5
Three months and over		6

6. Do other members of your household travel with you when you go to shows/fairs?

Yes		1
No		2
Please explain		

7. Do you have a similar pattern of show and fair work every year?

Yes		1
No		2

8. Do you think that patterns of travelling for show or fair work are likely to change in the next ten years?

Yes		1
No		2
Don't know		3

Please explain

9. Do you think that employment patterns for Showpeople are changing?

Yes		1
No		2
Don't know		3

Please explain

F. Views and experience of others living in housing

1. We know that Show People sometimes live in housing – which of the following statements is closest to your idea about how many that is?

	On site	Off site	
Most Show People now live in houses			1
More than half of Show People now live in houses			2
About half of Show People now live in houses			3
Less than half of Show People live in houses			4
Very few Show People live in houses			5

H. Health, education, support and advice services

1. Do you now or have you in the past used any local health, education, support and advice services? If so which ones?

Yes		1
No		2

	Name of service (s)	Location of service (name of town, village etc)
Health		
Education		
Support & advice services		
Other		

2. Were any of the services you have used particularly good? If so which service(s) and what was good about the service?

Any additional comments or notes

Please use this section to add any additional information that comes up in the interview

Appendix C – Letter from Showman’s Guild

SHOWMEN'S GUILD OF GREAT BRITAIN

LHC SECTION PLANNING COMMITTEE

VICTORIA HOUSE

MAIN STREET

HANWORTH

MIDDLESEX

TW13 6SU

Tel 020 8893 8993 Fax 020 8893 3037 email george@irvinleisure.co.uk

Addressee details

Date

Dear [insert name]

As you will know, all around the country local Councils are carrying out needs assessments for Gypsies, Travellers and now also Travelling Showpeople. These will see how many new yards will be needed in each area over the next 5 to 10 years and will make sure that Travelling Showpeople get the right to live in areas of their choice in decent and proper conditions. The new Government policy on Showpeople is a big step forward for our members and the Guild welcomes these needs assessments as an important part of this.

Interviews like this have already happened in some areas, such as Surrey and Cambridgeshire and the results have been very good and helpful in planning applications. They will soon be taking place all over the country. Now interviews have been planned in Oxfordshire and will take place in July.

What will happen is that you and all our members in Oxfordshire will be interviewed by experienced interviewers who will fill in a questionnaire. The results of these interviews and everything that is said by you will be completely confidential and you can be assured that nothing you say will be traced back to you, unless you have a specific question or point that you want dealt with.

I enclose with this letter a copy of the information sheet from the interviewing company, and the whole thing is being done by Tribal Group on behalf of the Councils, which I hope helps. What I could do with is your help in identifying the Showmen in the County, and below are the names that I have and their locations. Can you ring me at George Irvin's office of 020 8893 8993 and if I am not there leave a message telling me if these names are right and if I have missed anyone. Leave your number if you want. Also, leave a message if you want me to ring back to explain more.

Now we have new planning guidelines from the Government, with the new Housing Act, for the first time in years Showmen are getting proper recognition and so please help by giving as much information as you can. You have the right to refuse to answer any questions about which you are not happy, but the more information that the researchers get the stronger our position will be as up to now Showmen have been forgotten all too often by Councils and the Government.

Final

Do not hesitate to call me if you want to discuss this further. My mobile is 07913 549635 if you want to ring directly, otherwise use George's office because they take messages and stop me getting fines for talking and driving! You can call the consultants on the numbers given on the enclosed leaflet to arrange a time to meet them, and thank you for your help which will assist your families in the future, and all showmen in the country.

Yours sincerely,

Ray Smith

For Planning Committee of London Section Showmen's Guild

Showpeople in Oxfordshire

Details of households registered with the Showman's Guild were inserted here, together with their location in the

Please let me know urgently if this is correct, and if you know of anyone else in the County.

Thank you

SHOWMEN'S GUILD OF GREAT BRITAIN

LHC SECTION PLANNING COMMITTEE

VICTORIA HOUSE

MAIN STREET

HANWORTH

MIDDLESEX

TW13 6SU

Tel 020 8893 8993 Fax 020 8893 3037 email george@irvinleisure.co.uk

Appendix D – Briefing note

Briefing note

Assessing the accommodation needs of Circus and Showpeople in Oxfordshire

This note explains that a survey is taking place now which affects you, and which we hope you will want to get involved in.

Assessing site provision

The Government wants local Councils to ensure that all members of the community have fair access to suitable accommodation, education, health and welfare provision. The Government recognises that an assessment of travelling circus and showpeople's accommodation needs is an important part of the assessment of general accommodation needs. Councils must therefore assess the accommodation needs of these communities living in their area and seek to identify the appropriate level of site provision in the relevant locations.

Providing better education, health and support services

At the same time as assessing accommodation needs, Councils are also expected to assess wider needs, for instance to see whether better access to education, health and other support services could be provided.

An opportunity to influence future provision

A survey is now about to take place in your area. It is a real opportunity to get across to the Council the improvements in accommodation, and access to health, education and other services that you want for you and your family members. It is very important that enough information is collected to demonstrate very clearly the needs of circus and showpeople in the area.

How the survey will be conducted

The local Councils in Oxfordshire have appointed our company, Tribal, to find out about the needs of Circus and showpeople in the area. We plan to visit your site, or do home visits in your area soon to talk to you directly and hear what you have to say.

Each interview will be done individually by household. We have a list of questions about you and your family's needs which have been drawn up with the help of the Showman's Guild.

The interview takes about 30 minutes, and if there are any questions you prefer not to answer, that will not be a problem.

We are a completely independent research organisation. When reporting the results to the councils we will ensure that they are anonymous. In other words, our report will not identify details about particular individuals or households.

What happens next?

Once the survey work is completed, Tribal will prepare a report to go to the Oxfordshire councils. In the report we will use the information we have collected during the survey to show the needs for new sites/plots across the county, and what other improvements appear to be needed in respect of other services, such as health, education and advice and the support which is needed.

Arranging an interview

We hope to interview as many households during this survey as possible.

If you would like to book an appointment for an interview, please ring **Jackie Gallagher** on **07968 616 552** or **Janet Clark** on **020 7323 7110** or **07973 349077**.

Tribal Consulting Ltd
87-91 Newman Street
London W1T 3EY

Appendix E – How to get involved with local planning

How to get involved with local planning

Each local (district) council in Oxfordshire is currently putting together a planning strategy to guide where and how development happens in their area. This strategy is called a Local Development Framework. All communities in the local area are encouraged to get involved in this.

For each stage of developing their Local Development Framework, each local council will try to gather the views of a wide range of people in their local area. In particular, the local councils would like the travelling communities, including travelling showpeople, to have their say on local issues, for example views on accommodation need.

To make sure we involve all those who wish to be, each council will, from time to time, contact people who have expressed an interest in taking part in developing the Local Development Framework. This may involve receiving questionnaires asking about issues in your area, or invitations to particular events, exhibitions and workshops.

If you would like to be contacted in this way from time to time, or have any questions about local planning in your area, please contact one of the following council planning officers.

Council	Contact	Phone number	Email address
Cherwell District Council	Davis Peckford	01295 221841	David.Peckford@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk
Oxford City Council	Matthew Bates	01865 252277	mbates@oxford.gov.uk
South Oxfordshire District Council	Maria Garcia Principal Policy Officer	01491 823722	maria.garcia@southoxon.gov.uk
Vale of White Horse District Council	Peter Williams	01235 520202 ext 502	peter.williams@whitehorsedc.gov.uk
West Oxfordshire District Council	Janice Bamsey	01993 861420	planning.policy@westoxon.gov.uk

Thank you.

Appendix F – Need calculation at district level

Backlog of need

Calculation of backlog of need by district

	Data source	Cherwell	Oxford City	South Oxfordshire	Vale of White Horse	West Oxfordshire
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Backlog of need identified within interviews

A	Number of households with No Fixed Address (NFA)	Figure 24	1	0	1	0	1
B	Number of households living on sites above the planning permission capacity (due to fire regulations)	Figure 2	2	1	0	0	3
C	Actual number of concealed households identified in the interviews (including NFA interviews)	Figure 20	3	1	1	0	4
D	Total backlog of need identified within interviews	A + B + C	6	2	2	0	8

Assumed backlog of need for households not interviewed

E	Estimated number of households	Figure 24	15.6	2.2	22.2	3.3	23.3
F	Number of households interviewed (including any NFA interviews)	Figure 4 + A	8	1	4	1	16
G	Number of estimated households not interviewed	E - F	7.6	1.2	18.2	2.3	7.3
H	Assumed rate of concealment at county level	Figure 20	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%
I	Assumed level of concealed households within households not interviewed	G * H	2.28	0.36	5.46	0.69	2.19
J	Gross backlog of need	D + I	8.28	2.36	7.46	0.69	10.19

Vacant plots

Annual turnover

K	Number of plots (as per planning permission)	Figure 2 (col 4)	14	1	22	3	18
L	Turnover rate at county level		4%	4%	4%	4%	4%
M	Number of vacant plots per year arising due to annual turnover	K * L	0.56	0.04	0.88	0.12	0.72

Current vacant plots

N	Actual vacant plots identified from survey	Figure 2 (col 5 less col 4)	3	0	3	0	0
O	Total number of vacant plots	M + N	3.56	0.04	3.88	0.12	0.72
P	Net backlog of need	J - O	4.72	2.32	3.58	0.57	9.47

Future need

Calculation of future need by district

	Data source	Cherwell	Oxford City	South Oxfordshire	Vale of White Horse	West Oxfordshire	
A	Actual household formation within the next 10 years for households interviewed (including any NFAs interviewed)	Figure 21	8	0	2	0	6
Assumed concealment of households for households not interviewed							
B	Estimated number of households	Figure 24	15.6	2.2	22.2	3.3	23.3
C	Number of households interviewed (including any NFA interviews)	Figure 4 + A	8	1	4	1	16
D	Number of estimated households not interviewed	B - C	7.60	1.20	18.20	2.30	7.30
E	Assumed rate of future household growth at county level	Figure 21	53%	53%	53%	53%	53%
F	Assumed level of future household growth of households not interviewed	D * E	4.03	0.64	9.65	1.22	3.87
G	Gross household formation within the next 10 years	A + F	12.03	0.64	11.65	1.22	9.87
Vacant plots							
Annual turnover							
H	Number of plots (as per planning permission)		14	1	22	3	18
I	Turnover rate at county level		4%	4%	4%	4%	4%
J	Number of years		9	9	9	9	9
K	Number of vacant plots per year arising due to annual turnover in the next 9 years	(H * I) * J	5.04	0.36	7.92	1.08	6.48
L	Net household formation within the next 10 years	G - J	6.99	0.28	3.73	0.14	3.39