

Calderdale Gypsy, Traveller, and Travelling Showperson Accommodation Needs Assessment: Further Evidence-Based Exercise on Accommodation Need.

Supplementary Update Report to the GTAA 2023

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1: Introduction

- I. The **Calderdale Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showperson Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) 2023** provides the latest available evidence to assess and identify the accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers, and Travelling Showpeople across Calderdale.
- II. Since the report's publication in December 2023, **Leeds GATE** (Gypsy and Traveller Exchange) has established a council-funded project through Calderdale Council's Public Health Team to enhance support for the Gypsy and Traveller community in Calderdale, particularly focusing on health and well-being. Through this project, the Calderdale Team Leader has identified additional community members not included in the original Arc4 study, notably:
Three private yards occupied by Gypsy and Traveller families.

- Several community members who are currently homeless** or living roadside
- III. Leeds GATE's broad presence across West Yorkshire has also enabled outreach to Gypsy and Traveller community members living outside of Calderdale who previously resided roadside within the district or have family connections currently residing in Calderdale. This expanded engagement provides further insights into the potential need for additional pitches within the borough.
 - IV. The information gathered through these new connections has helped refine the projected pitch requirements for the Calderdale area, ensuring a more complete and representative assessment of community needs moving forward.

2: Summary of Methodology

- I. This assessment update follows the methodology used in the original GTAA conducted by Arc4, with additional data-gathering techniques introduced by Leeds GATE to expand upon and enhance the evidence base. The methodology combines a review of secondary data with primary research to capture the most accurate representation of accommodation needs for Gypsy, Traveller, and Travelling Showperson communities in Calderdale. Please see Calderdale GTAA 2023 document summary section 3, page 14 for original methodology and approach. [Item 11 - Appendix 6 - Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Development Plan Document.pdf](#)

Additional Methodology Introduced by Leeds GATE

- II. Since the GTAA's publication in December 2023, Leeds GATE has built upon Arc4's initial methodology with further community engagement and data collection to ensure a more representative assessment. This included:
- III. **Community Mapping Exercise** Leeds GATE conducted a community mapping exercise to address gaps in the initial Arc4 study by identifying and engaging with community members who were not originally consulted.
- IV. **Interviews and Group Sessions**
Leeds GATE facilitated individual interviews and group sessions with both new community members and families with longstanding ties to Calderdale, including those living outside the area but with family connections within the district. These sessions gathered insights on accommodation needs, site preferences, and intentions for the future.
- V. **Ongoing Community Engagement**
Leveraging its established presence in West Yorkshire, Leeds GATE connected with additional Gypsy and Traveller members across the region who previously resided roadside in Calderdale or have familial ties within the district. This outreach provided valuable data on broader community patterns and contributed to a fuller projection of pitch needs for the area.

Data Integration into Needs Analysis

- VI. All the data collected from these consultations and mapping exercises was carefully integrated into the needs analysis to ensure that the accommodation requirements outlined in the report were grounded in the lived experiences of Gypsy and Traveller households. Key insights from the consultation were used to:
- VII. Validate and refine the demand for additional pitches, including identifying specific areas with the greatest need.
- VIII. Inform the development of site criteria (e.g., access to services, environmental considerations, proximity to urban centres).
- IX. Shape recommendations for site expansion, improvements, and the development of culturally appropriate amenities.
- X. The integration of these methods has strengthened the evidence base, producing a more comprehensive and representative understanding of both current and future accommodation needs for Gypsy, Traveller, and Travelling Showperson communities in Calderdale.
- XI. During our ongoing work to engage the community Leeds GATE encountered similar challenges to those faced by Arc4 in engaging the Gypsy and Traveller community. Perceptions of council hostility, rooted in historical interactions over several years, remained a barrier. Many individuals expressed a lack of trust in the council's intentions, affecting willingness to participate and corroborating Arc4's findings on community perceptions of Calderdale Council.

3: Rationale for Expanding Pitch Numbers

Explanation of Need for Expansion

- I. The Calderdale Gypsy, Traveller, and Travelling Showperson Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) 2023 estimated pitch requirements based on the best available evidence at the time. However, since its publication, additional insights from the community and Leeds GATE's outreach work indicate that a substantial unmet need remains unaccounted for in the original assessment. This section presents evidence for increasing the number of pitches in Calderdale based on population growth, current unmet need, and evolving policy requirements.
- II. **Population Growth-**
- III. Evidence suggests that the Gypsy and Traveller population within Calderdale is larger than initially estimated. Several factors contribute to this discrepancy:
- IV. **Underestimates in Census 2021 Data**
Feedback from the community and anecdotal evidence indicate that the Census 2021 likely underreported the Gypsy and Traveller population in Calderdale. Community members have expressed that census data often does not fully capture

transient or roadside populations, nor those reluctant to disclose their ethnicity due to historic concerns about council-hostility.

V. **Additional Population Data**

Through Leeds GATE's community mapping and outreach efforts, it has become evident that three private yards in Calderdale, which house longstanding community members who were missed in the original GTAA, contribute to a larger-than-reported population. These families have lived in Calderdale Gypsy and Traveller families, all of whom have resided in Calderdale between 12 to 16 years, yet were not reflected in the initial Arc4 assessment.

VI. **Current Unmet Need**

A significant unmet need persists due to the underestimation of the local Gypsy and Traveller population, alongside additional factors impacting their living conditions:

VII. **Overcrowding and Unstable Housing**

Multiple families who previously lived roadside in Calderdale or who are currently registered as homeless indicate a need for immediate accommodation. This includes families with a historical presence in the area who have been forced into temporary or unstable living arrangements.

VIII. **Planning Applications and New Evidence**

Planning application data and local housing records reflect an increasing demand for culturally appropriate accommodations among Gypsy and Traveller households, indicating interest in establishing a stable presence within Calderdale. This demand supports the case for additional pitches.

IX. **Roadside Stops**

Over the past six months, Leeds GATE has documented instances of roadside stops by Gypsy and Traveller families in Calderdale. These stops reveal a steady flow of families passing through or staying temporarily, reflecting the community's ongoing need for accommodation options.

X. **Outreach to Brick-and-Mortar Residents**

Leeds GATE's outreach efforts have identified Gypsy and Traveller community members living in bricks-and-mortar housing who maintain a need for culturally appropriate accommodation and could relocate to a site if one were developed. Additional outreach connected with families outside of Calderdale who have family or historic ties to the area and would be interested in relocating if a new site became available.

XI. **Leeds GATE's assessment has also identified a range of unmet needs within the Travelling Showperson community in Calderdale. In addition to the general need for residential pitches, specific accommodation needs have emerged for a Travelling Showperson family living within the district. This family has expressed a clear need for:**

- XII. **Expanded Residential Space**
The family's current accommodation does not sufficiently meet their needs due to the expansion of their household, necessitating additional residential space to accommodate family growth.
- XIII. **Increased Storage Capacity**
The family's current site lacks the necessary space for the secure storage of their work-related equipment, including funfair machinery, vehicles, and other large equipment essential to their livelihood. A larger site with adequate storage facilities would alleviate the strain of insufficient space, ensuring both the safety and accessibility of these items.
- XIV. **Improved Site Access and Seasonal Storage Options**
The family also highlighted access limitations on their current site, which complicate the movement of large vehicles and trailers. Additionally, seasonal storage for their equipment is essential during the winter months when the funfair is not operational. A site that could accommodate both residential and seasonal storage needs, with good access for heavy vehicles, would better support the family's unique requirements and ensure their ability to continue working effectively.
- XV. These needs illustrate that expanding pitch numbers alone may not be sufficient; rather, an increase in multi-functional sites that can support both residential and business-related needs is essential for Showpeople and other community members with similar lifestyles.

4: Updated Needs Analysis

- I. **New Data and Analysis**
- II. This updated analysis builds upon the original GTAA 2023 by incorporating new survey data, demographic insights, and expanded community feedback gathered by Leeds GATE. Since the report's initial publication, additional engagement and community mapping exercises have identified previously uncounted members and explicit accommodation needs within Calderdale's Gypsy, Traveller, and Travelling Showperson communities.
- III. **Survey Results**
- IV. Leeds GATE's recent survey efforts have brought new perspectives on household formation, movement intentions, and unrecognised community members. Key findings include:
- V. **Household Formation and Expansion**
Additional community members who were not included in the original GTAA survey

have been identified. Our community mapping process uncovered three private yards occupied by Gypsy and Traveller families, all of whom have resided in Calderdale between 12 to 16 years and own their sites. Despite being present during the original Arc4 study, these families were not included in the initial assessment. The mapping exercise also identified members living in bricks and mortar also not part of the original study providing a broader understanding of the Gypsy and Traveller community's accommodation needs in Calderdale.

VI. **Movement and Accommodation Intentions**

Through new connections, Leeds GATE has identified several community members experiencing homelessness or living roadside, indicating immediate unmet needs. Additionally, several Gypsy and Traveller families currently residing in bricks-and-mortar housing have expressed a desire to relocate to culturally appropriate sites if available. Leeds GATE's network also extends across West Yorkshire, capturing the needs of families with Calderdale connections who have previously lived roadside in the district or whose family members currently reside within Calderdale. These factors collectively suggest a higher demand for pitches than initially projected in the GTAA 2023.

VII. **Future Projections**

VIII. Revised projections indicate a more substantial and diverse need for Gypsy, Traveller, and Travelling Showperson accommodation in Calderdale than initially estimated. This includes:

IX. **Demographic Trends and Household Growth**

Demographic insights and community mapping suggest that population growth within these communities is likely to continue, particularly as younger generations establish new households. The growing number of families expressing intentions to settle in Calderdale further reinforces the projected demand for additional pitches and larger, multipurpose sites.

X. **Projected Site Demand**

Based on these findings, an expansion in the number of pitches is essential to meet the needs of current Calderdale residents, homeless or roadside families, and those with family connections to the area who would consider returning if suitable accommodation became available. The anticipated demand for larger yards with enhanced functionality (e.g., storage for equipment and seasonal needs) for Travelling Showpeople should also be factored into Calderdale's development plans.

XI. This analysis underscores the necessity for an adaptable, robust accommodation strategy that addresses immediate unmet needs while accounting for future growth and the specialised requirements of the community.

5: Updated Pitch Requirements

- I. To ensure a comprehensive understanding of the accommodation needs and preferences of the Gypsy and Traveller (G&T) community in Calderdale, as previously mentioned a range of engagement methods were employed during the community mapping exercise, supporting the need for this additional exercise and review of the original figures concluded in the 2023 report. These included:
- II. **Semi-structured Interviews:** One-on-one interviews were conducted with key community members to gather in-depth insights into their housing needs, lifestyle preferences, and concerns. These interviews allowed for a flexible, open-ended approach, ensuring that individual circumstances and perspectives were fully explored.
- III. **Health Needs Assessment (HNA) Questionnaire:** A specific questionnaire was designed to capture detailed information on health and social care needs, as well as housing conditions. This tool helped identify key issues affecting community members' wellbeing and supported the identification of households previously overlooked in the initial ARC4 study.
- IV. **Group Conversations:** Focused group discussions were held with different subgroups within the G&T community, including families, elderly members, and Travelling Showpeople. These conversations provided valuable insights into communal living preferences, cultural considerations, and the specific requirements for functional and secure accommodation.
- V. **Outreach Activities:** To engage hard-to-reach individuals and households, outreach activities were carried out across the region. These included visits to private yards, roadside encampments, and temporary accommodation. Outreach efforts allowed us to identify families who had previously been missed in other assessments and provided an opportunity to hear from those who may not have been involved in more formal consultations.
- VI. **Key Insights from the Community Engagement**
The combination of these methods has enabled a more accurate and comprehensive understanding of the accommodation and support needs of the G&T community in Calderdale, ensuring that the updated pitch requirements reflect the realities faced by community members.
- VII. **Supporting Information for Revised Pitch Requirements**
The table below updates Table 6.1 from the original Arc4 GTAA 2023 report. The updated pitch requirements are based on Leeds GATE's extensive consultation and data gathering over the past year, including community mapping, the Gypsy and Traveller Health Needs Assessment (HNA), and direct engagement with households residing on authorised sites, private yards, and those previously experiencing

homelessness. These efforts have allowed us to gather a more accurate picture of the accommodation needs in Calderdale.

Updated Summary of demand and supply factors: Gypsies and Travellers – 2022/23 to 2026/27

1	Households living on pitches	1a. On council sites	0
		1b. On private site - Authorised	1
		1c. On private tolerated sites	2
		1d. On private site – Temporary Authorised	0
		1f. On caravan sites	0
		1g. On unauthorised sites	2
		1h. Total (1a to 1g)	5
2	Estimate of households living in bricks and mortar accommodation	2021 Census estimate	71
		<i>Weighting for non-response</i>	
3	Existing households planning to move in next 5 years, or on unauthorised site	Currently on sites	
		3a. To another pitch/same site (no net impact)	0
		3b. To another site in district (no net impact)	0
		3c. From site to bricks and mortar (-)	0
		3d. To site/bricks and mortar outside district	0
		3e. From roadside to bricks and mortar (no net impact)	0
		Currently in Bricks and Mortar	0
		3f. ¹ Planning to move to a site in LA (+)	4
		3g. Planning to move to another B&M property (no net impact)	0
		In-migrant households	
		3h. Allowance for in-migration (+)	2
		3i. TOTAL Net impact (-3c-3d+3f+3h+3i)	6
4	Emerging households (5 years)	4a. Currently on site and planning to live on current site	6
		4b. Current on site and planning to live on another site in the district	7
		4c. Currently on site and planning to live outside the district	0

¹ The figure from section 3f is taken from the final copy of the GTAA delivered by Arc 4

		4d. Currently in B&M planning to move to a site in LA (+)	1
		4e. Currently in B&M and moving to B&M (no net impact)	0
		4f. Currently on Site and moving to B&M (no net impact)	0
		4h. TOTAL (4a+4b+4d)	14
5	Total Need	1h+3i+4h	25
SUPPLY			

6	Current supply pitches and pitches on residential caravan sites	6a Current supply of occupied permanently authorised pitches occupied by Gypsies and Traveller	3
		6b. Total current authorised supply (6a)	3

7	Total need for pitches	5 years (from 5)	25
8	Total supply of authorised pitches	5 years (from 6c)	3
5-YEAR AUTHORISED PITCH SHORTFALL 2022/23 TO 2026/27			22

Newly Identified Households and Accommodation Needs

The newly identified households include:

- VIII. **Households on private yards:** These families, who have lived in Calderdale for over 12 years, were not captured in the original ARC4 study. The mapping exercise revealed three private sites in Northowram, Sowerby Bridge, and Stainland, where families have established roots and are seeking secure, long-term accommodation. These sites also have the potential for expansion to accommodate growing families and the return of elderly family members who are currently working in other areas or travelling roadside. Additionally, many parents have expressed a desire to help their children find culturally appropriate accommodation near or on the family's existing site. This reflects a long-term vision for generational continuity within the community, with children expected to start their own families in the coming years.
- IX. **Households with historical connections to Calderdale:** This includes families who have historically lived in the area but were not previously included in the study.
- X. **Previously homeless families:** This group includes individuals who have identified as Gypsy or Irish Traveller and presented to the council as homeless within the past 12 months.

XI. Comparison to ARC4 Report

In comparison to the original ARC4 study, which identified no authorised sites in Calderdale, this update presents a more accurate and comprehensive view of the current accommodation needs. The inclusion of private sites, previously homeless families, and households with longstanding connections to Calderdale gives a clearer understanding of the demand for accommodation. This updated information will help guide future planning and development to better meet the needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community in Calderdale.

6. Conclusion and Next Steps

I. Overview

This report summarises the findings and outlines steps to address the accommodation needs of Gypsy, Traveller, and Showpeople communities within Calderdale. It highlights immediate and projected needs, focusing on policy updates, community engagement, and resource allocation.

Key Findings and Recommendations

Key Findings

I. Accommodation Deficit:

No authorised Gypsy and Traveller pitches exist on public land.
Three long-established private yards require formal recognition and potential expansion.

II. Showpeople Needs:

The single Showpeople yard in Brighouse is inadequate for residential and business purposes.

III. Future Growth:

Community mapping and demographic analysis show a pressing need for at least 22 pitches by 2039/40.
In-migration and household growth will add to this demand.

Recommendations

I. Expand Pitch Targets:

Approve new targets based on updated community needs.
Include both public and private site development.

- II. **Land Identification:**
Seek suitable sites for residential, business, and seasonal storage needs.
Ensure proximity to essential services and respect for privacy.
- III. **Develop a Funding Strategy:**
Explore grants, partnerships, and innovative funding models to finance site development.
- IV. **Community Engagement:**
Maintain continuous dialogue to adapt to evolving needs.
Use inclusive methods like interviews and group discussions to gather feedback.
- V. **Prepare for Family Growth:**
Design sites that accommodate extended families and future expansion.
- VI. **Regular Updates:**
Regular review of the 5 year delivery figures/plan.

Summary of Current and Future Needs

- I. **Gypsy and Traveller Sites:**
Expand private yards and integrate them into planning policy.
Develop new sites to address unmet needs and future growth.
- II. **Showpeople Needs:**
Identify or expand a site that meets residential and business requirements, including operational storage.
- III. **Roadside and Stop-Over Sites:**
Implement a Negotiated Stopping Policy.
Identify flexible sites for transient families with essential facilities.

Next Steps

- I. **Approval Process:**
Present recommendations to the council for endorsement and policy adoption.
- II. **Action Plan Development:**
Create an implementation roadmap with timelines and key responsibilities.
- III. **Community Feedback Loop:**

Ensure transparency and accountability by providing regular updates to the community.

IV. **Funding Applications:**

Begin sourcing funds for immediate priorities, such as land acquisition and initial site.