

Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count: July 2016

29 Sept 2016
SFR 122/2016

Key results

On the 14 July 2016 there were 994 Gypsy and Traveller caravans and 119 sites reported in Wales.

Across the 22 Local Authorities that participated in both the July 2015 and 2016 count, the total number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans has decreased by 3 per cent (35 caravans) and the total number of sites (both authorised and unauthorised) has increased by 17 per cent (17 sites).

Of the total number of caravans, 83 per cent (829 caravans) were on authorised sites. Of these, 600 (72 per cent) were on Local Authority sites and 229 (28 per cent) were on private sites.

83% of Gypsy and Traveller caravans were on **authorised sites**



6% of caravans were on **unauthorised sites on land owned by Gypsies and Travellers**

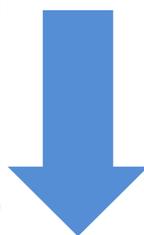


11% of caravans were on **unauthorised sites on land not owned by Gypsies and Travellers**



Number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans on **unauthorised sites**

has decreased **20%** since July 2015



Number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans on **authorised sites**

has increased **1%** since July 2015



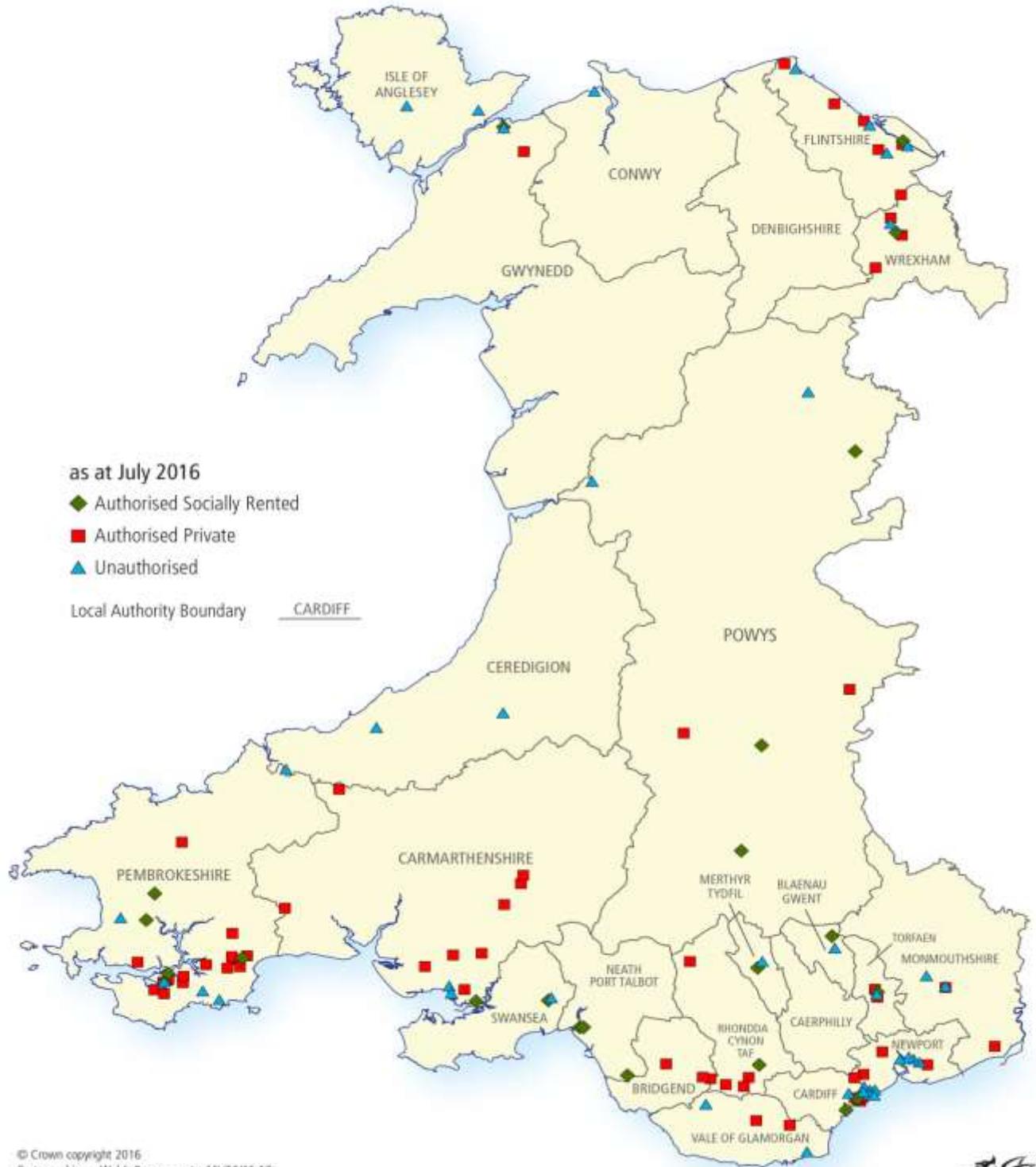
About this release

This release presents the number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans on authorised and unauthorised sites in Wales, and the status of pitches on Local Authority sites.

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Map 1: Gypsy and Traveller Sites in Wales on 14th July 2016



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 September 2016



Llywodraeth Cymru
 Welsh Government

Gypsy and Traveller Caravans

Table 1: Number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans on 14th July 2016

	Number of Caravans							All caravans
	Authorised sites (with planning permission)		Unauthorised sites (without planning permission)					
	Number of caravans		Number of caravans on sites on Gypsies own land		Number of caravans on sites on land not owned by Gypsies			
			Tolerated	Not tolerated	Tolerated	Not tolerated		
Local Authority ¹	Private							
Isle of Anglesey	0	0	0	0	9	9	18	
Gwynedd	14	3	0	0	1	0	18	
Conwy	0	0	0	0	4	0	4	
Denbighshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Flintshire	41	52	8	0	0	11	112	
Wrexham	23	6	0	3	0	0	32	
Powys	55	4	0	0	6	0	65	
Ceredigion	0	0	0	2	0	3	5	
Pembrokeshire	103	31	0	2	4	0	140	
Carmarthenshire	15	23	0	6	0	0	44	
Swansea	12	0	0	0	2	0	14	
Neath Port Talbot	98	0	0	0	0	0	98	
Bridgend	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	
Vale of Glamorgan	0	1	0	0	21	0	22	
Cardiff	144	38	0	0	0	3	185	
Rhondda Cynon Taf	5	15	0	0	0	0	20	
Merthyr Tydfil	28	0	0	0	6	0	34	
Caerphilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Blaenau Gwent	20	0	0	7	0	0	27	
Torfaen	42	19	7	0	0	0	68	
Monmouthshire	0	3	4	0	0	1	8	
Newport	0	30	3	14	19	10	76	
Wales	600	229	22	34	72	37	994	

Source: Gypsy and traveller caravan count, Welsh Government

¹ Alternatively known as Socially Rented Sites. Includes sites owned by Registered Social Landlords

At the time of the July 2016 count, the total number of caravans in Wales was 994. There were 829 caravans on authorised sites with planning permission, accounting for 83 per cent of all caravans. Of these, 600 (72 per cent) were on socially-rented sites and 229 (28 per cent) were on privately-funded sites.

There were 56 caravans on unauthorised sites on land owned by Gypsies and Travellers, accounting for 6 per cent of all caravans. A further 109 caravans (11 per cent of all caravans) were on unauthorised sites not owned by Gypsies and Travellers.

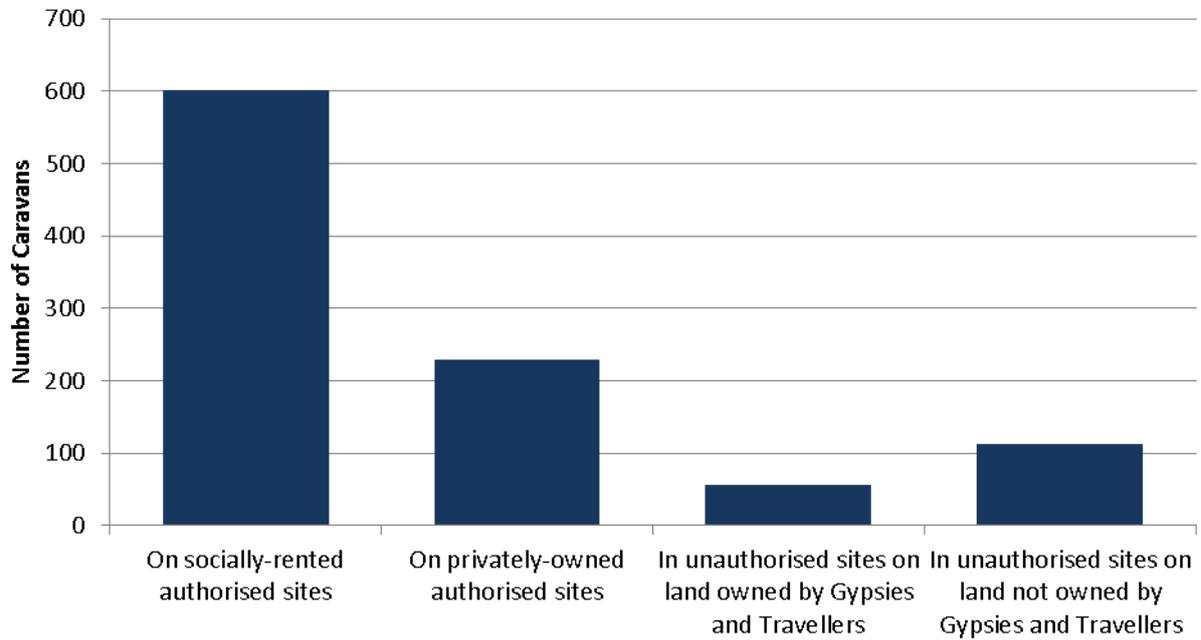
From Table 1, it can be seen that Cardiff and Pembrokeshire had the highest total number of caravans; combined these accounted for 33 per cent of all caravans. Denbighshire and Caerphilly reported having no caravans in the July 2016 count.

In some cases, caravans are on sites which are unauthorised but the Local Authority has decided not to seek removal of the encampment. These are shown in Table 1 as unauthorised sites which are 'tolerated'. 71 caravans were on unauthorised sites that were not tolerated; the largest numbers of these were seen in

Flintshire where there were 11 caravans in July 2016. Flintshire had the most 'tolerated' sites on land owned by Gypsies and Travellers in July 2016 (8).

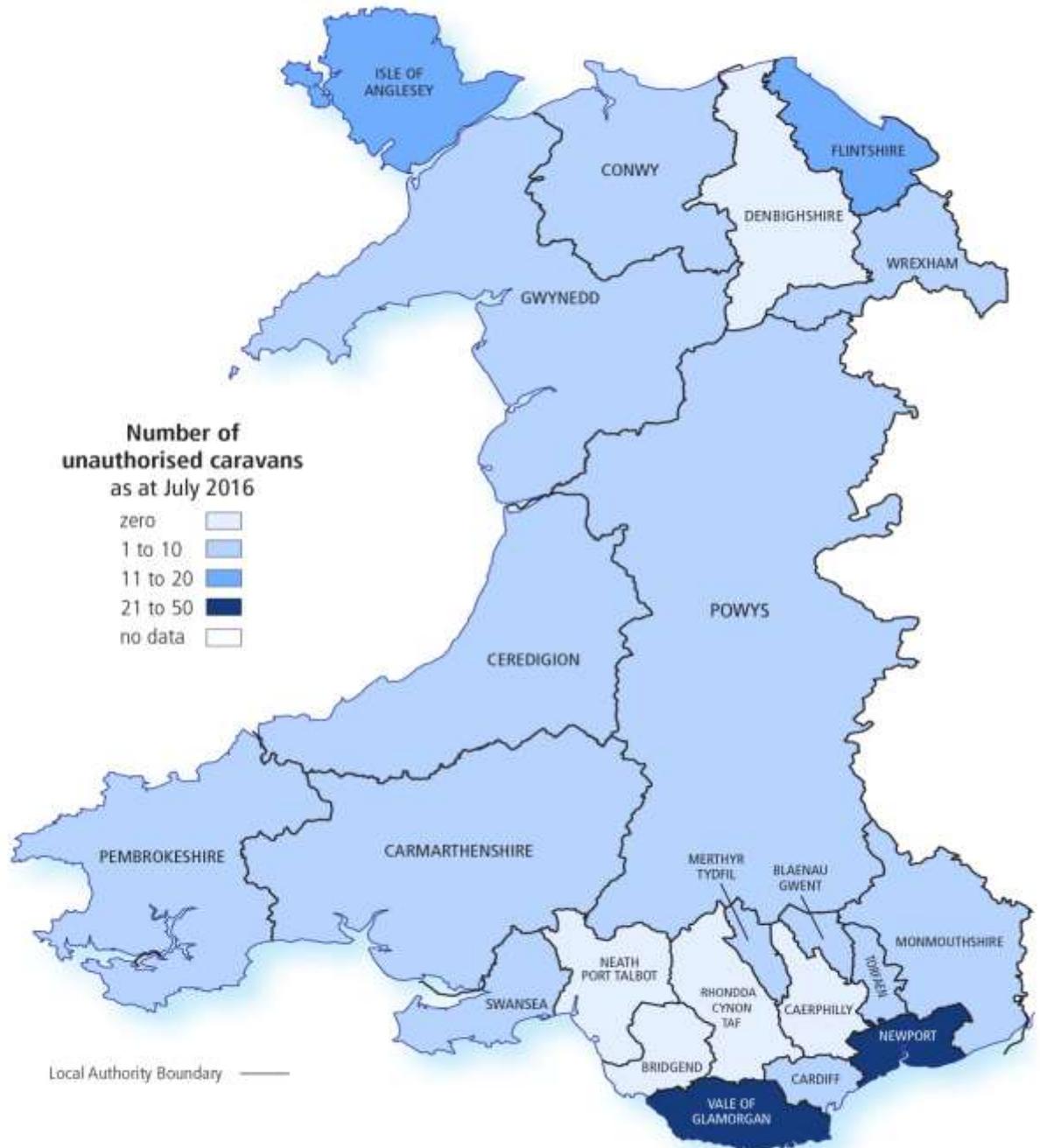
See the [Key quality information](#) section for further background and quality information. More detailed tables are provided on [StatsWales](#). Terms which have a special meaning are explained in the [glossary](#).

Figure 1: Number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans on 14th July 2016, by type of site



Source: Gypsy and traveller caravan count, Welsh Government

Map 2: Number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans on unauthorised sites, 14th July 2016



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Table 2: Number of pitches¹ on Gypsy and Traveller sites provided by Local Authorities² in Wales on 14th July 2016

	Number of pitches				
	Occupied residential	Vacant residential	Occupied transit	Vacant transit	Total
Isle of Anglesey	0	0	0	0	0
Gwynedd	8	0	0	0	8
Conwy	0	0	0	0	0
Denbighshire	0	0	0	0	0
Flintshire	20	0	0	0	20
Wrexham	13	2	0	0	15
Powys	20	0	25	79	124
Ceredigion	0	0	0	0	0
Pembrokeshire	74	1	0	0	75
Carmarthenshire	15	0	0	0	15
Swansea	6	1	0	0	7
Neath Port Talbot	63	4	0	0	67
Bridgend	0	0	0	0	0
Vale of Glamorgan	0	0	0	0	0
Cardiff	80	0	0	0	80
Rhondda Cynon Taf	5	0	0	0	5
Merthyr Tydfil	22	2	0	0	24
Caerphilly	0	0	0	0	0
Blaenau Gwent	20	0	0	0	20
Torfaen	26	0	1	0	27
Monmouthshire	0	0	0	0	0
Newport	0	0	0	0	0
Wales	372	10	26	79	487

Source: Gypsy and traveller caravan count, Welsh Government

¹ One pitch may accommodate multiple caravans

² Does not include Authorised Private Sites

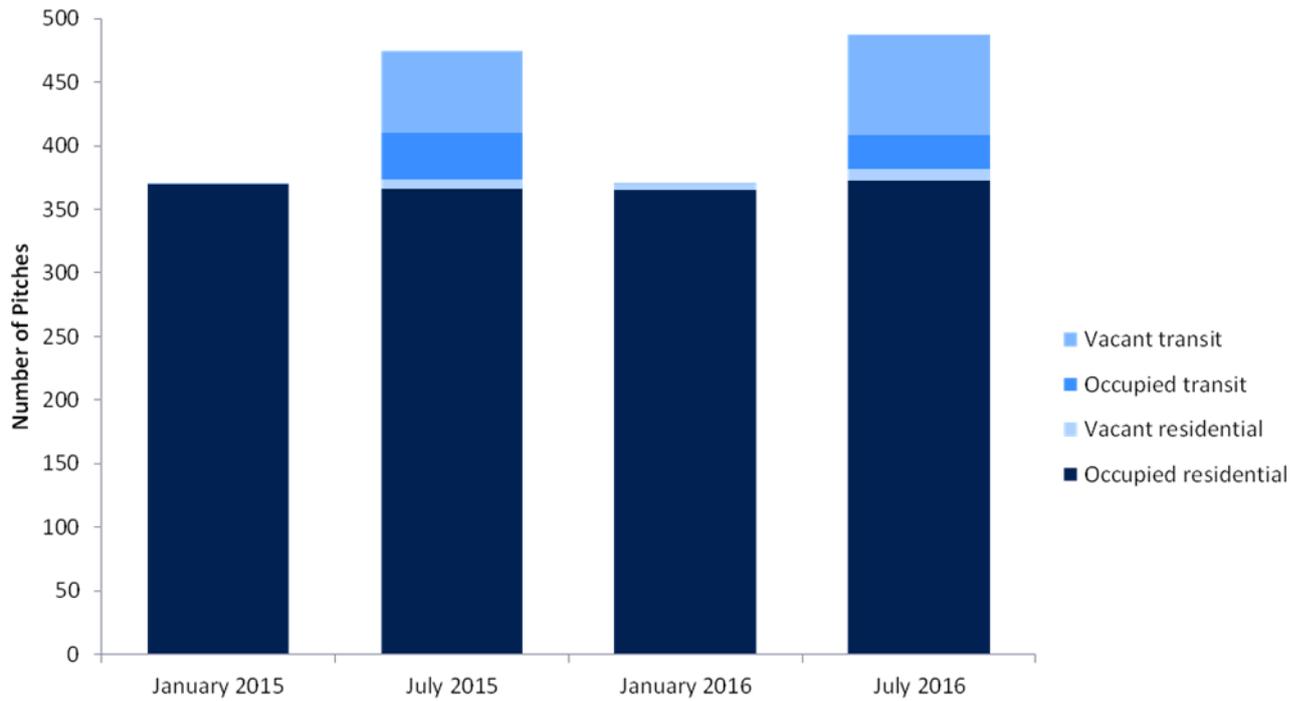
There were 487 pitches on Gypsy and Traveller sites provided by Local Authorities in Wales on 14 July 2016. Of these, 382 were residential pitches and 105 were transit pitches. The number of transit pitches has increased notably since the January 2016 count; this is due to the seasonality of pitches as, during the summer count, Powys had provided temporary stopping sites for Gypsies and Travellers attending the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show. This is in contrast to the January 2016 count where these transit pitches were not available.

Powys, Cardiff, Pembrokeshire and Neath Port Talbot had the highest number of pitches provided by Local Authorities (124, 80, 75 and 67 pitches respectively) accounting for nearly three quarters of the total number of pitches (71 per cent). There were 9 Local Authorities that reported having no pitches on 14 July 2016.

At the time of the count, 97 per cent of the residential pitches were occupied; this is slightly less than July 2015 when 98 per cent of residential pitches were occupied.

The total number of pitches in July 2016 was more than in July 2015. The proportions of pitches that were vacant transit, occupied transit, vacant residential and occupied residential over the last four counts can be seen in Figure 2. Again, the seasonality influences the number of transit pitches available.

Figure 2: Number of pitches on Gypsy and Traveller sites provided by Local Authorities by transit/residential status, Wales – January 2015 to July 2016



Source: Gypsy and traveller caravan count, Welsh Government

Between January 2015 and July 2016 there was limited variation in the number of residential pitches, whereas there was observable seasonal variation in the transit pitches.

Site Authorisation

Table 3: Number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans by site authorisation, 2015 to 2016

	Number of caravans							
	January 2015		July 2015		January 2016		July 2016	
	Authorised Sites	Unauthorised Sites	Authorised Sites	Unauthorised Sites	Authorised Sites	Unauthorised Sites	Authorised Sites	Unauthorised Sites
Isle of Anglesey	0	14	0	32	0	13	0	18
Gwynedd	13	0	13	1	22	2	17	1
Conwy	0	3	2	2	0	0	0	4
Denbighshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flintshire	86	2	81	6	83	3	93	19
Wrexham	42	3	33	10	39	1	29	3
Powys	32	7	70	8	32	6	59	6
Ceredigion	0	4	0	6	0	3	0	5
Pembrokeshire	156	1	143	0	131	9	134	6
Carmarthenshire	72	21	69	20	36	6	38	6
Swansea	15	16	14	16	14	11	12	2
Neath Port Talbot	89	0	85	0	92	0	98	0
Bridgend	6	0	6	0	7	0	4	0
Vale of Glamorgan	3	20	1	20	1	21	1	21
Cardiff	146	31	137	32	154	18	182	3
Rhondda Cynon Taf	26	4	25	10	20	4	20	0
Merthyr Tydfil	42	8	42	11	44	9	28	6
Caerphilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blaenau Gwent	20	0	20	0	20	1	20	7
Torfaen	65	5	54	4	57	4	61	7
Monmouthshire	1	0	1	0	3	0	3	5
Newport	31	36	28	27	27	38	30	46
Wales	845	175	824	205	782	149	829	165

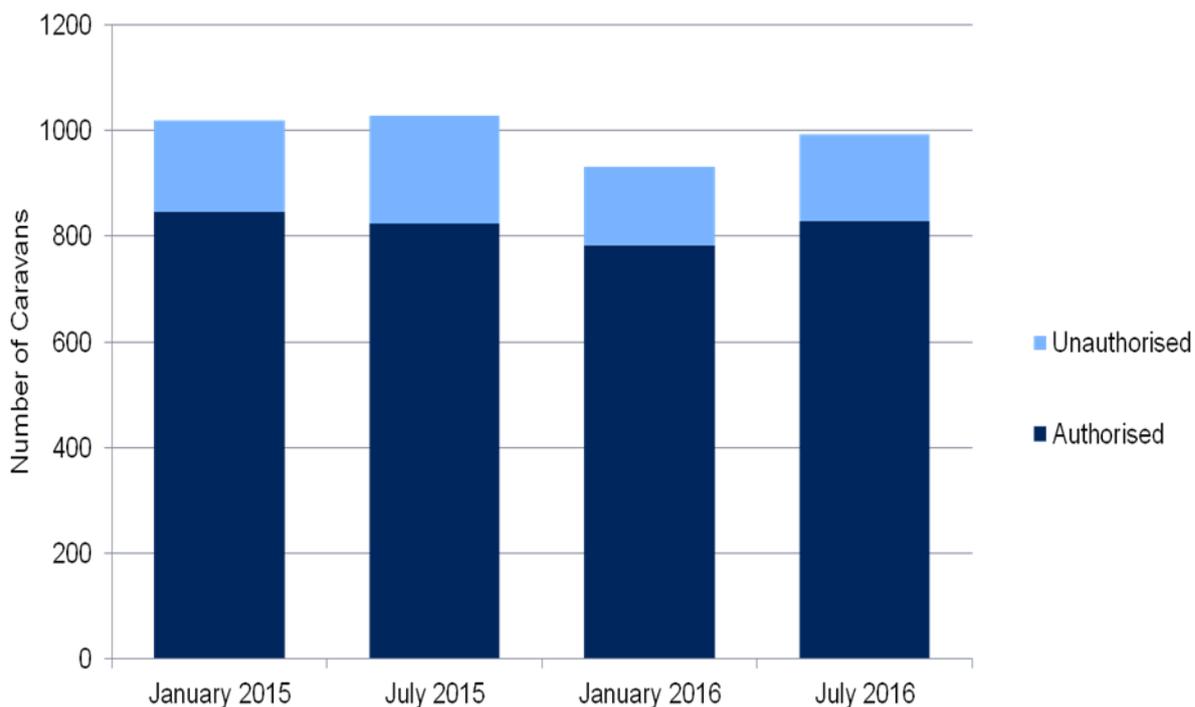
Source: Gypsy and traveller caravan count, Welsh Government

Table 3 shows that on 14 July 2016, Cardiff had the highest total number of caravans with 185, 2 per cent of which were on unauthorised sites. Pembrokeshire had the second highest number with a total of 140 caravans.

The Isle of Anglesey, Conwy and Ceredigion did not provide authorised sites, so in those Local Authorities all caravans were on unauthorised sites. In contrast, all the caravans in Neath Port Talbot, Bridgend and Rhondda Cynon Taf were on authorised sites.

Overall, 17 per cent of caravans in Wales were on unauthorised sites. This is lower than in the July 2015 count, when 20 per cent of caravans in Wales were on unauthorised sites.

Figure 3: Number of caravans¹ by site authorisation, Wales – January 2015 to July 2016



Source: Gypsy and traveller caravan count, Welsh Government

Across the latest four counts, July 2015 had the highest total number of caravans, with 1,029. January 2016 had the lowest total across the four counts with 931.

When comparing the July 2015 and July 2016 counts across the whole of Wales, the number of caravans on authorised sites has increased by 1 per cent (5 caravans) and the number of caravans on unauthorised sites has decreased by 20 per cent (40 caravans).

Table 4: Number of Gypsy and Traveller sites by authorisation, 2015 to 2016

	Number of sites							
	January 2015		July 2015		January 2016		July 2016	
	Authorised Sites	Unauthorised Sites						
Isle of Anglesey	0	1	0	3	0	2	0	2
Gwynedd	2	0	2	1	2	6	2	1
Conwy	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	1
Denbighshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flintshire	8	1	5	2	6	1	7	4
Wrexham	4	1	2	2	4	1	4	1
Powys	4	2	5	4	4	2	5	2
Ceredigion	0	3	0	3	0	2	0	3
Pembrokeshire	15	1	17	0	18	5	20	4
Carmarthenshire	6	4	6	4	10	2	10	2
Swansea	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1
Neath Port Talbot	3	0	3	0	3	0	3	0
Bridgend	2	0	2	0	3	0	3	0
Vale of Glamorgan	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Cardiff	4	7	4	4	5	1	6	1
Rhondda Cynon Taf	4	1	4	1	4	1	5	0
Merthyr Tydfil	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Caerphilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blaenau Gwent	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1
Torfaen	3	1	3	1	3	1	3	1
Monmouthshire	1	0	1	0	2	0	2	2
Newport	5	5	5	6	5	5	5	10
Wales	66	34	65	37	74	34	80	39

Source: Gypsy and traveller caravan count, Welsh Government

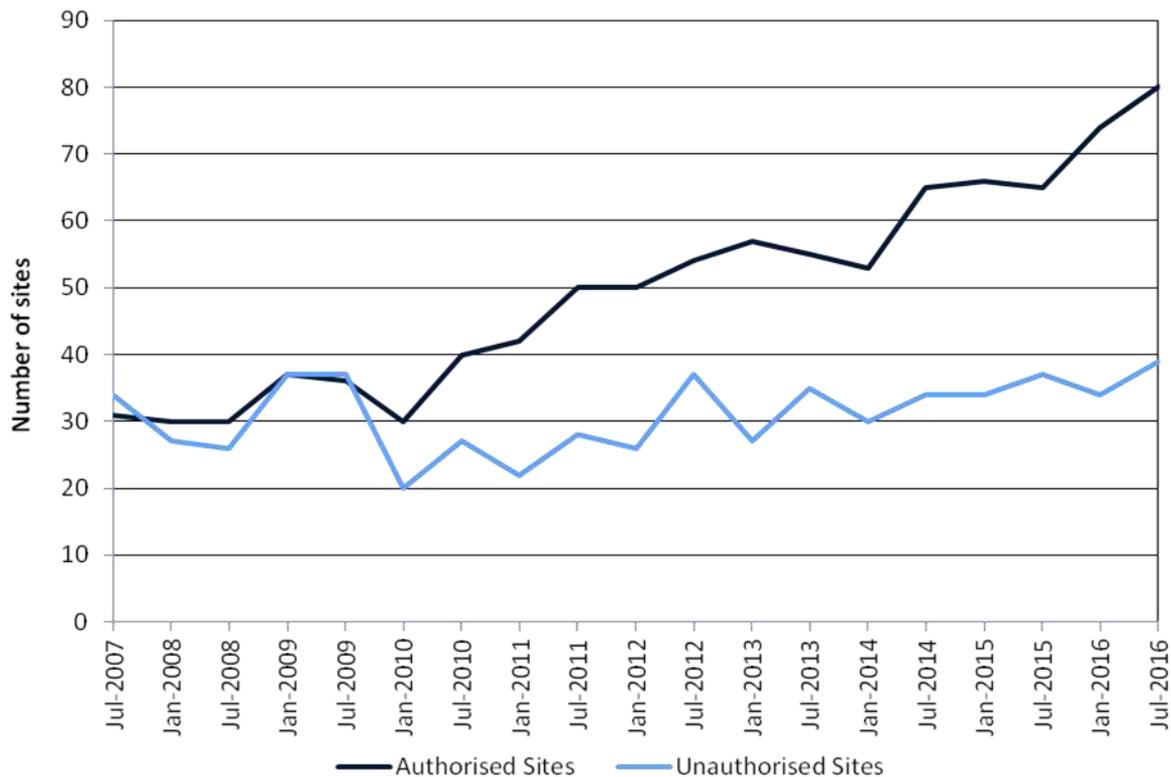
There were 119 Gypsy and Traveller sites in Wales in July 2016; an increase of 11 sites from January 2016. 80 of these were authorised (67 per cent) and 39 were unauthorised (33 per cent).

Comparing July 2015 to July 2016, the total number of sites has increased by 17 (17 per cent).

Looking at the increase in more detail, 15 of the sites were authorised.

Across the four counts seen in Table 4, July 2016 had the highest total number of sites (it is also the highest total since July 2007).

Figure 4: Number of Gypsy and Traveller sites by authorisation, 2007 to 2016¹



Source: Gypsy and traveller caravan count, Welsh Government

¹This figure is based on the all Wales totals for each count and hence, as not every Local Authority submitted data for each count, caution should be exercised when drawing comparisons across years. Note that in particular, 2010 had a low response rate with 7 Local Authorities not responding in the January count and 4 not responding in the July count.

Figure 4 shows the historic trend of the number of Gypsy and Traveller sites by authorisation.

In general, the number of authorised sites has increased faster than the number of unauthorised sites. While there has been an increase of 54 sites (83 per cent) since July 2007, only five of these were unauthorised sites. The apparent drop in the number of sites in 2010 should however be interpreted with caution. In particular, 7 Local Authorities did not respond in the January 2010 count and this may contribute to the fluctuations seen in Figure 4.

Glossary

Caravans

A 'caravan' can include any of the following:

- mobile homes, caravans, trailers and other living-vehicles on Gypsy or Traveller sites and encampments, whether or not they meet the strict legal definition of a caravan;
- touring caravans on Gypsy or Traveller sites and encampments even if not lived in permanently;
- tents, benders or yurts where these are the 'permanent' living accommodation of Gypsies or Travellers.

Gypsies and Travellers

For the purposes of this release 'Gypsies and Travellers' include Traditional and Ethnic Gypsies and Travellers or members of non-traditional New Traveller groups who live in caravans or other moveable dwellings whether or not they meet the strict legal definition of a 'Gypsy' or 'Traveller'. The caravan count is not designed to be an estimate of the Gypsy or Irish Traveller population in Wales.

Local Authority sites

Sites operated by Local Authorities or Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) to accommodate Gypsies and Travellers.

Not Tolerated

A 'not tolerated' encampment is one where: the Local Authority or police are using, or are preparing to use, their powers under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 to remove the encampment, or where the landowner (including the Local Authority) has instigated, or is preparing to instigate, action either through the courts or under common law rights to regain possession of the land.

Pitch

A pitch also referred to as a plot, will vary according to the size of the occupant household. One pitch can accommodate multiple caravans.

Privately funded sites

Privately Funded Gypsy and Traveller sites with planning permission may include:

- sites with planning permission owned by Gypsies and Travellers for their own and/or their family's occupation and/or for commercial letting;
- sites owned by any other private individual or body with planning permission for use as a Gypsy or Traveller site;
- sites owned by a Local Authority but leased to, or managed by, a non-Local Authority body or individual under arrangements which do not give the Local Authority control of site management (critically of rent setting and lettings).

'With planning permission' may be interpreted to include sites without 'planning permission' as such, but with established use rights or other planning status which means that planning enforcement action cannot be taken.

Tolerated

A 'tolerated' encampment is one where the Local Authority and/or the land owner have decided not to seek the removal of the encampment, and where the encampment has been or is likely to be 'tolerated' for an indefinite period of months or years.

Unauthorised sites on Gypsies or Travellers own land

Unauthorised sites where Gypsies and Travellers are living on their own land in caravans/moveable dwellings without planning consent or established use rights. Such sites may vary in size and in the extent to which the land has been 'developed' with roadways, distinct plots, hard-standings, amenity blocks etc.

Unauthorised sites on land not owned by Gypsies or Travellers

Caravans/moveable dwellings on sites without planning permission on land not owned by Gypsies or Travellers. The land may be in public or private ownership, including the highway.

Key quality information

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

Note that the information collected as part of the count is outside the scope of National Statistics.

This section provides a summary of information on this output against six dimensions of quality: Relevance, Accuracy, Timeliness and Punctuality, Accessibility and Clarity, Coherence, and Comparability.

Relevance

The bi-annual counts of Gypsy and Traveller caravans and families were reintroduced in Wales in July 2006 following recommendations from the [Review of Service Provision for Gypsies and Travellers](#) (pdf), carried out by the Welsh Government's Equality of Opportunity Committee in 2003, and the Welsh Government's review of the Accommodation Needs of Gypsies and Travellers in Wales undertaken by Pat Niner of Birmingham University 2006.

The commencement of section 101 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 requires Local Authorities to carry out an assessment of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers residing in or resorting to their area.

The Welsh Government has allocated approximately £3.8m in 2015/16 for significant site extensions in Torfaen and Neath Port Talbot, the construction of Conwy Council's first Gypsy and Traveller site and refurbishment on a further eight sites.

Since January 2011, the counts have been conducted by the data collection team within the Welsh Government. Previous data collections had been conducted by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

The caravan count does not estimate the number of Gypsy and Travellers in need of sites. Evidence suggests that many people identifying as 'Gypsy or Irish Travellers' live in homes that are not mobile structures.

Further information from the 2011 Census on Gypsy and Travellers accommodation for England and Wales is available on the [Office for National Statistics website](#).

Users and Uses

The count is used when assessing bids from local authorities for the Gypsy and Traveller Sites Capital Grant. Some of the other uses include:

- Monitoring of progress towards targets
- Policy development
- Advice to Ministers
- Informing debate in the National Assembly for Wales and beyond

There are a variety of users of the Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count statistics, including national and local government, researchers, students, as well as individual citizens with an interest in the count.

Accuracy

The data contained in this release is collected from information reported by Local Authorities. The response and quality of the count can be affected by the following factors:

- Local Authorities not completing their returns.
- Inadequate counting practices.
- Geography – particularly in large rural areas which require correspondingly large resources to map all sites.
- Gypsy and Traveller mistrust.
- The counts are voluntary, with no rewards to Local Authorities completing their returns or penalties for those that fail to do so.
- The caravan count for Wales in this statistical release was conducted on the same day as the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) conducted the caravan count for England (14th July 2016). This is to avoid double counting caravans travelling between Wales and England.

Symbols

The following symbols may have been used in this release:

- . Not applicable
- .. Not available
- ~ Not yet available
- * Disclosed or not sufficiently robust for publication
- p Provisional
- r Revised

Timeliness and Punctuality

The count is carried out on a specified date in January and July each year, giving a snapshot of the number and location of caravans on the specific date. The data is published ten weeks after the reference period, this allows time to collect, collate and validate the data.

Accessibility and Clarity

This statistical first release is pre-announced and then published in the Statistics and Research section of the Welsh Government website. It is accompanied by more detailed tables on [StatsWales](#), a free to use service that allows visitors to view, manipulate, create and download data.

Comparability and Coherence

Meaningful comparisons of total figures for Wales over time are limited by Local Authorities who do not take part in the count. It is therefore advised that comparisons over time should only be made for Local Authorities that have taken part in all relevant counts.

Data for the Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count is subject to seasonality. To compare figures over time it is advised to look at the winter and summer counts each year separately. The count takes place twice a year to reflect winter residence and summer travelling trends and changes. Previous years figures indicate the number of unauthorised caravans are higher during the summer (July) count.

Equivalent information for England is available via the [Department for Communities and Local Government \(DCLG\) website](#). The date for collection is arranged with the Department for Communities and Local Government and, where possible, is the same for England and Wales.

Revisions

We follow the Welsh Government's [statistical revisions policy](#).

Related Statistics for Other UK Countries

Caravan Count Statistics for other UK countries is available at the following links:

[Collected by the Department for Communities and Local Government in England](#).

The Scottish Government collects and publishes information on travellers in Scotland. In particular, a [recent review of the evidence base](#).

[Information on traveller accommodation in Northern Ireland](#).

Consultation

The Welsh Government held a consultation on official statistics which closed on 3rd March 2014. The consultation covered a range of proposals relating to official statistics products, including a review of the frequency and content of the Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count. A [summary of responses to the consultation](#), including our intended course of action for each statistical product affected, was published in April 2014.

As part of this, Welsh Government is currently trialling a new online caravan count system which will allow Local Authorities to log unauthorised encampments as they occur and record authorised sites. The new and traditional caravan count systems will run concurrently in July 2016 and potentially January 2017 to ensure robust data is recorded in the new system. The intention beyond January 2017 is for the new system to go live and replace the existing system.

Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG)

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals for Wales. These are for a more equal, prosperous, resilient, healthier and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Under section (10)(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers must (a) publish indicators ("national indicators") that must be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the Well-being goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before the National Assembly. The 46 national indicators were laid in March 2016.

Information on indicators and associated technical information - [How do you measure a nation's progress? - National Indicators](#)

Further information on the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

This release does not contain data on any of the specified National Indicators but the statistics included in this release could provide supporting narrative to the national indicators and be used by public services boards in relation to their local well-being assessments and local well-being plans.

Further details

The document is available at:

<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/gypsy-traveller-caravan-count/?lang=en>

Caravan Count data is available on Stats Wales:

[Number of Caravans by authorisation and Local Authority from July 2006 to January 2016.](#)

[Number of pitches by residential status, occupied status and Local Authority July 2010 to January 2016.](#)

[Number of sites by authorisation and Local Authority July 2007 to January 2016.](#)

Next update

March 2017

We want your feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to stats.inclusion@wales.gsi.gov.uk

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