

GYPSY & TRAVELLER TASK GROUP

Wednesday 25th February 2014

APPENDIX A

PROFILE OF GYPSIES, TRAVELLERS AND TRAVELLING SHOWPEOPLE IN MELTON

1. Gypsies and Travellers Population

1.1. There is a very small gypsy and traveller population in Melton; estimates suggest a population of just 11 households, about half of which are thought to live in traditional housing.

2. Gypsies and Travellers - Authorised Sites

2.1. Authorised sites are sites where there is (a temporary or permanent) permission to stop. There is just one small authorised site that provides accommodation for one family close to Melton Mowbray. This site provides accommodation for 2 residential pitches along with a further 3 transit pitches for visiting family and friends to stop for short periods.

3. Gypsies and Travellers - Unauthorised Encampments

3.1. Unauthorised encampments include both permanent and temporary stopping sites that are occupied without (planning) permission to use them as such. In Melton this has included LCC Highways land, farmers' fields, Melton Borough Council car parks and land on industrial estates. Unauthorised encampments can include land owned by gypsies and travellers where they do not have planning consent to live there.

3.2. There are occasional unauthorised encampments in Melton, typically when gypsy and traveller families stop as they pass through; these encampments are normally short term and small in size (an average of 5 caravans and rarely above 10 caravans in size). The Multi Agency Traveller Unit (MATU) records data about unauthorised encampments. Their records show an a range of 6-11 unauthorised encampments a year in Melton. Table 1 (overleaf) shows some recent unauthorised encampments recorded by MATU in more detail.

3.3. Historically there are patterns of gypsies and travellers stopping close to and in Melton Mowbray and to the rural east of Melton (Waltham, Buckminster and Sewstern). There are also other records of stops across then the remaining rural areas of Melton. Appendix 1 illustrates where historically unauthorised encampments have been recorded in Melton and across Leicestershire between 1996 and 2012 (GTAA, 2012).

3.4. There is one noticeable exception to the pattern of short term unauthorised encampments; there is a family that have lived in the rural east of Melton for over 10 years. They have lived on a variety of illegal encampments around Waltham, Sewstern and Buckminster, often on LCC Highway and Severn Trent land. This household is likely to account for many of the recorded unauthorised encampments to the rural east of Melton. This family have looked for a legal permanent site this area. They failed to get planning permission for a small permanent site close to Waltham in 2014 for 4 residential pitches (14/00065/COU). Enforcement action is currently underway to move the family from this site, although there is nowhere lawful to move them to.

Table 1: MATU Recorded Unauthorised Encampments – May 2012 to Aug 2014

Date	Number of Caravans	Encampment Address	Land Owner	Ethnicity
21/05/12	5	Track off The Drift Wymondham	Private Farm Track	Non Travellers
05/02/13	2	Swing bridge (lag) lane, off Saxby Road. Nr Melton Mowbray	LCC Highways	Non Travellers
25/04/13	4	Goadby Road, Waltham	Private	English Gypsy
22/05/13	5	Main Street Sewstern	LCC Highways	Unknown
07/03/14	3	Hallmark Saxby Road Industrial Estate	Private Units	Irish Travellers
09/03/14	3	Dual Pumps, Saxby Road Industrial Estate	Private Units	Irish Travellers
04/08/14	8	Station Lane Asfordby	LCC Highways	New Travellers

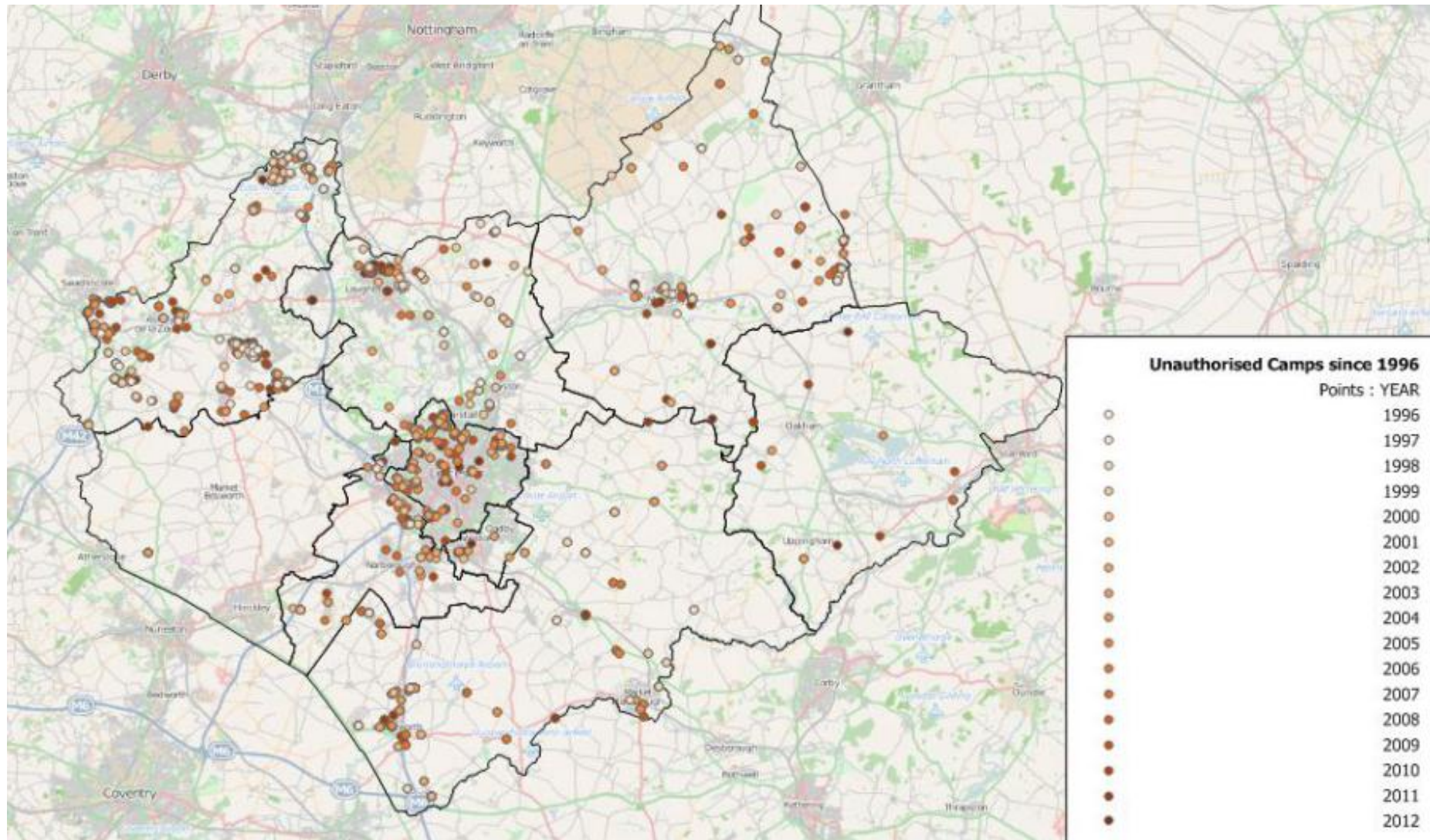
4. Gypsies and Travellers – Housing

4.1. Significant number of gypsies and travellers live in housing, data is not readily available, but estimates suggest about 48% of the population across Rutland, Leicester and Leicestershire live in housing. (Ethnicity has not historically been recorded through the census or social housing landlords, this makes estimating the housed gypsy and traveller population difficult). Estimates are that there are 6 gypsy and traveller households in Melton who live in housing. These households have been estimated using local knowledge of the MATU team, for example households who have accessed housing related support.

5. Travelling Showpeople

5.1. There are no travelling showpeople currently living in Melton. Melton does not have a history any type of encampments involving travelling showpeople.

Appendix 1a: Map of Unauthorised Encampments 1996 – 2012 (GTAA Refresh 2012)



Appendix 1b: Map of Unauthorised Encampments 2006 – 2012 (GTAA Refresh 2012)

