**Permanent Sites**
The management of the 6 residential sites is overseen by Durham County Council's GRT Site Management Service, under Housing Solutions.

email grtsites@durham.gov.uk
or Telephone 03000 264 932.

1. Adventure Lane, West Rainton, Houghton-le-Spring, Durham, DH4 6PW
2. Ash Green Way, Bishop Auckland, County Durham, DL14 6RS
3. Drum Lane, Birtley, Chester-le-Street, County Durham, DH3 2AF
4. East Howle, Ferryhill, County Durham, DL17 8SA
5. St Phillip's Park, Coundon, Bishop Auckland, County Durham, DL14 8XG
6. Tower Road, Maiden Law, Stanley, County Durham, DH9 7XR

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**How to contact the Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Service**

Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Service
Durham County Council
County Hall
Durham
DH1 5UG

Telephone: 03000 261 000
Fax: 0191 386 0487
E-mail: grtservice@durham.gov.uk
Website: www.durham.gov.uk/travellers

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Unauthorised Encampment location and postcode:

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Please ask us if you would like this document summarised in another language or format.

- Braille
- Audio
- Large print

grtservice@durham.gov.uk
03000 261 000
Gypsies and Travellers in County Durham

County Durham has a long history of Gypsies and Travellers living in and travelling through the area. Gypsies and Travellers are one of the largest minority ethnic communities within County Durham.

The Equality Act 2010 defines Gypsies and Travellers as a racial group who are protected from direct and indirect discrimination and harassment on the grounds of their race.

As part of the Act we are also subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

The aim of this duty is to ensure that public authorities consider how they can positively contribute to a fairer society through advancing equality and good relations in their day-to-day activities.

This means addressing stereotypes and fear, encouraging good relations within local communities and breaking down barriers between different racial groups.

We are committed to:
- Promoting equality of opportunity
- Valuing diversity
- Ensuring discrimination, harassment or victimisation is not tolerated.

Our policy is to treat people fairly, with respect and dignity.

Awareness Raising

We offer awareness raising to increase knowledge and understanding about Gypsies and Travellers, including culture, effective ways of partnership working and legislation. If you are interested please contact the service for further information.

Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Service

We work with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, local residents, Elected Members and key partners to offer advice and support.

We work to the following principles:
- To tackle racism, prejudice and discrimination and promote positive race and community relations and community cohesion
- To respect the rights of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities to fulfil their cultural needs
- To respect the rights of local settled communities
- To celebrate and promote the benefits that the sharing of another culture brings to wider society
- To value diversity and recognise that Gypsies, Roma and Travellers needs are not all the same
- To work in an open and clear manner
- To encourage inclusion and acceptance of Gypsies, Roma and Travellers within wider communities

Partnership working

We work with other services, partners and key stakeholders to ensure joined-up working; sharing of good practice and information:
- Developing Initiatives Supporting Communities (DISC)
- Elected Members
- GRT Education Service. Tel: 03000 267 800.
- Health, including a Specialist Nurse for GRT in Co Durham. Tel: 07971 895298
- Housing and Planning
- Neighbourhood Wardens
- Police

Unauthorised Encampments

An Unauthorised Encampment is when a person or group of people move onto a piece of land they do not own, without the permission of the landowner.

We take the lead in managing all Unauthorised Encampments that occur on council land in County Durham, including:
- Visiting Unauthorised Encampments on DCC land to fulfil the Local Authority’s duty to undertake welfare assessments, and make follow-up visits as needed
- Acting as a link between Gypsies and Travellers, the settled community and key partners
- Arranging provision of appropriate facilities for Unauthorised Encampments to ensure welfare needs are met and to reduce impact on the local area
- Provide a copy of the DCC ‘Code of Conduct’ guidelines for Gypsies and Travellers and discuss with those encamped