



Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Service

Unauthorised Encampments and Temporary Stop Over Areas

**Guidance for your stay
in County Durham**

Using this guide should help you during your stay. Please consider your neighbours, local businesses and residents whilst in the area.

Our service works with Gypsies, Roma and Travellers on unauthorised encampments which occur on council land.

If the area is suitable, a length of stay will be agreed and refuse collection will be provided. Additionally, if toilets are available they will also be supplied.

On areas that are not suitable, we will require you to move off the land. A Temporary Stop Over Area may be offered if one is available.

What can we do for you?

When an unauthorised encampment occurs on land, we will:



Visit and talk with you about your circumstances; offer general advice and support and discuss the suitability of the location of where you are encamped.

If it is unsuitable we can provide details of Temporary Stop Over Areas, where available.

Discuss any welfare issues that need to be considered.



Link with other services for example health, education and housing.

Making sure the area is clean and tidy



Pick up and bag **all** rubbish and use bins if provided. We can provide you with bin bags.



Take all green waste, trade waste and gas bottles off the area. Flytipping can be reported confidentially on 03000 260 000.



Use the toilets provided or use appropriate toilet facilities.

Where toilets are provided please keep them clean and if they become damaged, out of order or require cleansing please contact us.



Please keep horses securely tethered at all times and ensure dogs are kept on a lead or are secured. Ensure all animals belonging to you are kept away from roads and footpaths.



Please keep noise from people, animals and generators to a minimum.



Park trailers and vehicles considerably and be respectful of your surroundings ensuring gates, footpaths and rights of way are kept clear.



Keep groups small - no more than six trailers. More may be allowed on an official Temporary Stop Over Area.



Keep fires and smoke under control and never leave them unattended.

Do not burn anything toxic or materials that give off acrid black smoke.



As part of the Equality Act 2010, Durham County Council has a duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

Durham County Council is committed to ensuring that hate crimes or hate incidents are not tolerated. If you have experienced or witnessed hate crime please report this to:

- Durham Police on **101 (999 in an emergency)**
- Online via True Vision website: **www.report-it.org.uk**

Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Service

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E-mail: grtservice@durham.gov.uk

Website: www.durham.gov.uk/travellers

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