

CTU response

- * If the CTU is contracted to deal with this matter on your behalf we will:
 - Ask the trespassers to leave and record the time this is done, by whom, and any response made.
 - Undertake any health and welfare assessments.
 - Liaise with the Police and trespassers to determine the best course of action to be undertaken.
 - Feed back and advise the landowner of action to be taken, expected timescales for eviction, and cost.
 - Obtain Court Orders, serve notices and conduct eviction where necessary.

The CTU will charge a fee for this service.
A full list of charges can be obtained on request.

Contact details

Countywide Traveller Unit
1st Floor Kingsthorpe Housing Office
Harborough Road, Kingsthorpe
Northampton, NN2 7BB
Tel: 01604 837247
Email: ctu@northampton.gov.uk

Manager

Steve Wilkinson Tel: 01604 837247

Traveller Liaison Officer

Heather Young Tel: 07595 091 386

Police Liaison Officer

Sgt Mark McDonnell Tel: 07799 786 514

Police Contact Centre

03000 111 222

This is advice only.
The landowner must decide what action to take.

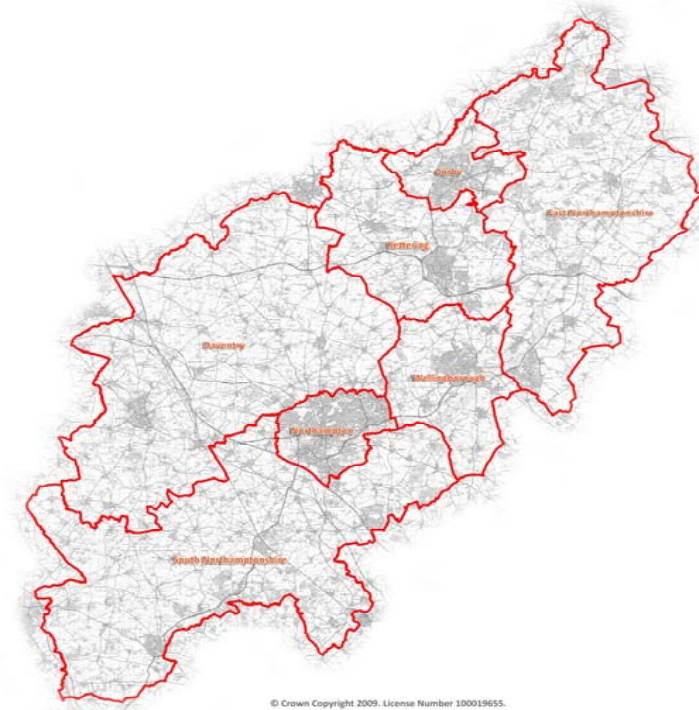


November 2010



Northamptonshire
Countywide Traveller Unit

Unauthorised Encampments



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Information for private landowners

Common Law — Trespass

- * Nobody has a right to enter onto somebody else's land without their permission and that includes Gypsies and Travellers.
- * **Trespass is a civil offence not a crime.**
(‘Unauthorised encampments’ not ‘illegal encampments’)
- * The owner of the land has a civil right of entry onto their land and should initially request the trespassers to leave.
- * The owner may commit an offence under the Criminal Law Act 1977 section 6 by using or threatening violence.
- * The owner becomes further liable if more force than necessary is used to remove the occupiers.

Response to unauthorised encampments

The private landowner has several options for the resolution of this situation.

- * The Countywide Traveller Unit (CTU) can act on behalf of the landowner and can instigate powers using Section 77 of Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (CJPOA).
This can be done in a minimum of 5 working days and uses the powers of the Magistrates Court.
- * The CTU, acting on behalf of the landowner, can take private action in the County Court using Civil Procedure Rule 55 (CPR 55).
This can take slightly longer and maybe more costly in the short term, but can be more effective on land that is regularly re-occupied.
- * In exceptional circumstances, where the time to undertake the above actions is unacceptable, and taking into account all the circumstances, the Police maybe requested by the CTU to consider using their powers under Section 61-62 CJPOA.
- * The private landowner can employ private bailiffs to remove trespassers using Common Law powers which although quicker will be more costly.

Private landowners response

- * **Act ASAP**
- * Contact the CTU by telephone or email for immediate advice (if out-of-hours contact Police Contact Centre).
- * Notify Police if any criminal damage or disorder is occurring. This will be dealt with by the Police separately from the civil trespass.
- * Make reasonable efforts to secure your land from unauthorised vehicular access.
- * Ensure neighbours are able to contact you in the event of an encampment.
- * Never agree that trespassers can stay for a specified time as this would legitimise their stay.
- * Do not provide services like water, sanitation facilities or waste collection to trespassers.
- * Do not pay them to leave.