



PREVENTION IS THE BEST FORM OF ACTION

To prevent encampments arriving on your land, ensure that it is secure.

Safeguard your property by fencing or gating off open spaces to stop anyone accessing your land.

CONTACT US

If you have an encampment on your land please contact us as well as the agencies on the back of this leaflet.

The Council may be able to offer support, advice and assistance.

Providing us with the information will also mean that we can help our district in the future.

We can be contacted by phone 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on the following number:

01304 872220

or report online at:
[Dover.gov.uk/unauthorised_encampment](https://www.dover.gov.uk/unauthorised_encampment)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

[dover.gov.uk/unauthorised_encampment](https://www.dover.gov.uk/unauthorised_encampment)

USEFUL CONTACTS

COMMUNITY SERVICES AT DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

community@dover.gov.uk

KENT POLICE

[kent.police.uk](https://www.kent.police.uk)

or report via phone on 101

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Telephone: 01304 202442 or
08082 787979

or visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk

OR CONTACT YOUR SOLICITOR



UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENTS

ADVICE & INFORMATION FOR PRIVATE LANDOWNERS





RESPONSIBILITIES

If you have an unauthorised encampment on land that you own or occupy, it is your responsibility to remove an encampment. Dover District Council will deal with encampments on its land, as will Kent County Council. Kent County Council will also deal with highway land. Should gypsies or travellers arrive and camp on your land, it is your responsibility to manage the situation and remove them.

ACTIONS TO TAKE

In the first instance, speak to the gypsies or travellers and ask what their intentions are and how long they plan to stay. You should make it clear that it is your land and that they do not have your permission to stay there. If the group does not move on, seek legal advice.

If you feel you cannot engage with the group, please contact us or Kent Police for assistance.

NEXT STEPS

If you are unable to negotiate a time to vacate the land with the gypsies or travellers, you may need to obtain a court order to remove them from your land. You should seek advice from a Solicitor or the Citizens Advice Bureau at this stage.

Potential actions:

- Issuing a claim form and particulars of claim
- Seeking a possession order in the County court.

Usually once an order has been granted and served gypsies and travellers will vacate the area. Court Orders granted by the County Court will be enforced by Court Bailiffs

The process of dealing with trespassers is carried out under Part 55 of the Civil Procedure Rules.

KENT POLICE

It is widely believed that trespass is dealt with by the police. However, trespass on private land is a civil matter and dealt with through the County Court. Therefore, where an encampment is peacefully occupying land the police cannot remove them from land. The only exception to this is where the police can use their powers under Section 61 of the Criminal Justice & Public Order Act 1994.

These powers will only be used where authorised and where those in occupation have caused damage, used threatening, abusive or insulting words or behavior or they have six or more vehicles on the land in question.

Even though the police cannot usually remove encampment's, they will be made aware of the location and will still be able to deal with crimes committed, such as criminal damage and anti-social behavior.

