

Essex Police, Rural Engagement Team Update:

Encampments	May-Oct 2023
Total Encampments	58
Evicted Under Section 61	8
Evicted Under Section 60C	5

We continue to see a decrease in the number of unauthorised encampments across the County. A consistent approach by the Rural Engagement Team working with the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit in managing all unauthorised encampments has demonstrated that anti-social and disruptive behaviour is unacceptable in Essex.

Since May there were 58 encampments and 22% of encampments were required to vacate the land under legislation due to anti-social and disruptive behaviour to communities. In the same period, the previous year, police powers were used at 33% of encampments.

The policing of encampments has become more consistent, and the enforcement is only used in proportionate circumstances where the impact is felt by communities. The change in legislation last year has strengthened Police powers but at the same time the Rural Engagement Team have provided a clear code of conduct for those involved in unauthorised encampments and levels of unacceptable conduct are explained. At the same time, less repeat visitors are coming to Essex and therefore acceptable behaviour is having to be explained and enforced where it may have been accepted outside of Essex.