

Mapping the Histories of London's Travellers

Exhibition

19th Nov – 18th Dec 2019



Launch event

Tuesday 19th

November

6-8pm

If you want to attend
please email
policy@londongandt.org.uk

Opening times

Tuesdays & Wednesdays

11am-4pm

Saturday

7th & 14th December

11am-4pm

Thamesmead
Information Hub
216 Yarnton Way
DA18 4BW



 **Peabody**

THAMESMEAD 



Foots Cray, Kent, 1950s.
Newly married couple.
With thanks to Tracie Giles & the Smith family.

Generations of Romany Gypsies, Irish Travellers and Travelling Showpeople have lived and worked in London, making unique contributions to the capital's social, economic and cultural life.

**LONDON
GYPSIES &
TRAVELLERS**



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Mapping the Histories of London's Travellers

Interactive online maps record Travellers' camps, yards, and long-term settlements, and routes between London and the surrounding counties, and give new insights into the geography of nomadic life and its links to the economic hub of London.

The maps draw on archives and first-hand accounts to document the development of activism in the East End in the 20th century, and record Travellers' disillusion with policies that took away more freedoms than they granted rights, and encouraged antagonism towards people who had lived and worked alongside settled Londoners for centuries.

The maps cover two overlapping periods: **London between the 19th and mid-20th Century** – showing relationships between principal routes, green corridors, yards and stopping places; and **London from the 1970s** – marking the troubled transition from camps to the politics of sites, and the stifling effects of 'designation' on Traveller life.

The exhibition focuses on particular themes, times and places, using a selection of archival materials, photos, newspaper cuttings, and audio recordings of Romany and Irish Travellers who share knowledge and memories, and reflect on Traveller life, past and present. All the materials on display are linked to the online maps.

The interactive online maps can be accessed at:
lgtheheritage.communitymaps.org.uk

The project is building the first interactive, online maps of London to foreground the knowledge, skills and cultural lives of Travelling people, using a combination of sound and voice, photography, video and archival material, linked to maps of the changing city. Members of Travelling communities of all ages can take part in any way they choose to document and portray the lives, histories, skills and experiences of London's Travellers, as well as the challenges they still face.

Mapping the Histories of London's Travellers is supported by a grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund. London Gypsies and Travellers are working in partnership with Mapping for Change, a social enterprise that combines community knowledge and mapping to create tools for social change.

