

**TRESPASSING ON LAND WITHOUT CONSENT /
UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENTS POLICY**

Official



NORFOLK
CONSTABULARY



SUFFOLK
CONSTABULARY

**TRESPASSING ON LAND WITHOUT CONSENT
/ UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENTS**

Owning Department: CPC Suffolk / CPC Norfolk

Department SPOC: CPC Inps

Risk Rating: Medium Low

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Legal Basis

Legislation specific to the subject of this policy document:

- Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (sections 61, 62A and 60C)

Other relevant legislation which you must check this document against (required by law)

- [Human Rights Act 1998 \(in particular A.14 – Prohibition of discrimination\)](#)
- [Equality Act 2010](#)
- [Crime and Disorder Act 1998](#)
- [Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and associated Regulations](#)
- [General Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\) and Data Protection Act 2018](#)
- [Freedom Of Information Act 2000](#)
- [The Civil Contingencies Act 2004](#)

Other documentation which you must check this document against:

- [College of Policing – Code of Ethics](#)
- [Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies' Standards of Professional Behaviour](#)
- [College of Policing – Authorised Professional Practice](#)
- Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies' Unauthorised Encampments Power Plan
- Norfolk County Council Unauthorised Encampment Protocol (*under review*)
- Suffolk County Council Unauthorised Encampment Protocol
- 7Force Unauthorised Encampments Memorandum of Understanding
- NPCC Operational Advice – Trespassing on Land without Consent/Unauthorised Encampments

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1. Statement of Policy

- 1.1 This policy has been formally agreed via the approved policy development/review process. It will be maintained by the County Policing Commands in conjunction with the Central Policy Unit.
- 1.2 The policy is intended to promote equality, eliminate unlawful discrimination and actively promote good relations regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, economic or family status.
- 1.3 Managers have a responsibility to ensure this policy is applied fairly, and unless otherwise stated, all policies and procedures are non-contractual.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 An unauthorised encampment is where any person camps in a van, trailer, tent, or any other moveable accommodation on land that they do not own and where they do not have permission to reside.
- 2.2 Many unauthorised encampments will move on with little, if any, disturbance, but some may cause anti-social behaviour and disruption to the community in which they reside, giving rise for concern, not only for the landowner, but also for residents of the neighbouring settled community.
- 2.3 Therefore, unauthorised encampments are situations that require a range of solutions, within an overall strategy of tolerance, understanding and consideration. Effective solutions will promote confidence within the local community in the ability of the local authorities and the police to manage unauthorised encampments.
- 2.4 It is impossible to predict where and when an unauthorised encampment will occur, however, a purely reactive response to their establishment as and when they arise is likely to be both inefficient and ineffective. Therefore, it is important that local authorities, police and other agencies work together to ensure there is a structured and effective response strategy to unauthorised encampments which can be put into action when needed.

3. Process

- 3.1 Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies have developed a Power Plan to be followed when an unauthorised encampment is reported. The plan can be accessed here: [N&S Encampment Plan](#).
- 3.2 The plan sets out the framework within which unauthorised encampments should be dealt with, recognising the requirement to balance the needs of a range of interested parties, without causing unnecessary disruption to the people concerned.
- 3.3 There is also a Seven Force Unauthorised Encampment Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which articulates the principles that have been

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agreed between Bedfordshire Police, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Essex Police, Hertfordshire Constabulary, Kent Police, Norfolk Constabulary and Suffolk Constabulary when responding to unauthorised encampments.

- 3.4 Additionally, Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils and District Councils have agreed protocols with the Constabularies which set out the partnership working approach between the authorities for dealing with unauthorised encampments in Norfolk and Suffolk.