



Unauthorised Encampments

Policy owners	Norfolk Constabulary DCC and Suffolk Constabulary DCC
Policy holder	CPC Ch Supts for Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies
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Approved by

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Note: By signing the above you are authorising the policy for publication and are accepting responsibility for the policy on behalf of the Chief Constables

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Note: Please send the original Policy with both signatures on it to the Norfolk CPU for the audit trail

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Legal Basis

Legislation/Law specific to the subject of this policy document

Section	Act (title and year)

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

Act (title and year)
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 Related Documents

- [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](#)

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Unauthorised camping refers to those people who trespass on land owned by another with an intention to reside.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 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 a structured and effective response strategy to unauthorised encampments is developed and able to be put into action when needed.

2. Process

- 2.1 With this in mind, Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies have developed a Power Plan to be followed when an unauthorised encampment is reported. The plan can be accessed on the 'W' drive [here](#). (File path: Collaboration \ Protective Services \ Spec Ops \ Ops Support & Dogs \ Org \ Shared Working \ Unauthorised Encampments \ Support Documents)
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 There is also a Seven Force Unauthorised Encampment Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which articulates the principles that have been agreed between seven Forces (Bedfordshire Police, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Essex Police, Hertfordshire Constabulary, Kent Police, Norfolk Constabulary and Suffolk Constabulary) when responding to unauthorised encampments.
- 2.4 Additionally, Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils and District Councils have agreed protocols with the Constabularies in place which sets out the partnership working approach between the authorities for dealing with unauthorised encampments in Norfolk and Suffolk.