CR21314 – Released information

The Home Office has received the following information via correspondence from ACPO and NDEU. NCTT often summarises the information and reports provided by forces. As such, the wording may not exactly reflect that submitted by forces.

1. **NCTT Operation Element 01/09/2011**

**3.5 TRAVELLER AND ROMA EXPERIENCED** Dale Farm: An attempt to appeal the eviction notices at Dale Farm were dismissed on the 31/08/11. Local residents were arrested for threats to cause criminal damage and firearms were seized. No significant tensions reported regarding Camp Constant. Rumours have been received regarding evicted families moving to Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire. The potential remains for an increase in tensions and public order issues when evictions commence.

**TRAVELLER AND ROMA COMMUNITIES**

4.10. **EXPERIENCED** Local residents in Hertford have raised concerns regarding a piece of land recently being laid with hard standing; as it is feared it will be used by some families evicted from Dale Farm.

The overall national assessment in this Section is rated at **NORMAL 6 ►**

4.11. **EVIDENCED**

Legal representatives for families on Dale Farm, Essex attended the High Court on the 31/08/11 in an attempt to overturn eviction notices, the appeal was dismissed. No significant tensions regarding Camp Constant have been reported. Local residents were arrested over the weekend for threats to cause criminal damage, firearms were also seized. Rumours have been reported regarding evicted families moving to Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire.

The overall national assessment in this Section is rated at **NORMAL 6 ►**

4.12. **POTENTIAL** As reported last week, the eviction has attracted support from left wing activists as well as from the wider Travelling community. Essex reports that this is a major operation involving mutual aid from a number of forces.

The overall national assessment in this Section is rated at **ABOVE NORMAL 5 ►**

**Experienced**

**Hertfordshire** - On 26/08/11 police were made aware of a substantial part of land at Birch Green, Hertford where of it was having hard standing laid. Local residents were fearful that this was in preparation to accommodate a large scale Traveller encampment following the Dale Farm Evictions.

**Essex** - 28 Day notices have been served by Basildon Borough Council on 04/07/11. Legal representatives for the Travellers attended the high court 31/08/11 to prevent the eviction occurring. The appeal was dismissed.
Camp Constant has been set up and has attracted approximately 50 attendees, but there are no significant tensions related to this. Local resident (adjacent to site) were arrested over the weekend for threats to cause criminal damage and firearms have also been seized. Various rumours are circulating regarding Dale Farm residents moving to locations in Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire (some reports of preparatory work at locations from other forces).

Further information can be found on the Essex Police website

2. **NCTT Operation Element 15/09/2011**

3.5. **TRAVERLLER AND ROMA EXPERIENCED** Tensions currently low at Dale Farm ahead of eviction on 19/09/11.

Basildon Council issued a press release confirming the planned enforcement clearance to commence week beginning 19/09/11. Affected Travellers have been notified that the electricity supply to the site will be cut off from this date and have urged those on medication to contact their local GP urgently. Speculation concerning the displacement of the affected 86 families continues. No known alternative Traveller site has been identified. The affected site, continues to gather support, but despite an activist presence at Dale Farm, numbers appear to be small.

3.24. **TRAVERLLER AND ROMA COMMUNITIES**

3.25. **EXPERIENCED** MPS report comments made by a female that only Irish travellers are being evicted from Dale Farm. Whilst she was informed that this wasn’t the case, she remained adamant that it was. Whilst this is single strand reporting, rumours – particularly in the Traveller community – have shown a propensity to spread quickly previously.

The overall national assessment in this Section is rated at **NORMAL 6 ►**

3.26. **EVIDENCED** A planned protest march on 10/09/11 in support of the residents of Dale Farm saw 190 attended. The event was peaceful and no arrests were made. Essex have reported no significant tensions relating to Camp Constant – activists are apparently not receptive to local police officers, whilst residence are still very welcoming. Rumours continue of Dale Farm residents moving to locations in Essex and the surrounding counties.

The overall national assessment in this Section is rated at **NORMAL 6 ►**

**UK - UN team visits Dale Farm ahead of travellers' eviction** A United Nations team is to visit the UK’s largest illegal traveller settlement later, ahead of a planned mass eviction next week. The Advisory Group on Forced Evictions (UNAGFE) will hold a press conference at Dale Farm in Essex, where Basildon Council is to evict 85 families. UNAGFE will launch its report on the eviction of gypsies and Travellers in the wider London area. Basildon Council said the group had not contacted it about the report. BBC News, 14/09/11
UK - Dale Farm: Basildon Council 'abusing law' on travellers A former UN advisor has accused a council of "abusing the law" over the clearance of the UK’s largest illegal travellers’ site. Professor Yves Cabannes, who used to advise the UN on forced eviction, said Basildon Council had failed to provide pitches at Dale Farm in Essex. A mass eviction is due to begin there on Monday after a 10-year legal row. BBC News 14/09/11

UK - Dale Farm: Travelers hope for eviction reprieve Travelers on the Dale Farm site in Essex are holding out for a last minute reprieve from next week’s planned eviction of illegal plots. Medical evidence relating to sick and vulnerable residents is being heard at the High Court later. At least eight caravans have left Dale Farm since Tuesday. A chalet left the site on Wednesday. Basildon Council is to begin an eviction on Monday over 51 illegal plots. BBC News 15/09/11

Experienced

Norfolk – An article appeared in the East Anglia Daily Times on 13/09/11 detailing the court appearance of a male charged with a racially or religiously-aggravated attack on Travellers at Dale Farm. The article also provides background information to the eviction. There were a small number of public comments, which were generally negative about Travellers.

Essex - Dale Farm
28 Day notices have been served by Basildon Borough Council on 04/07/11. Following expiry of the 28 day notices occupants written to on 05/09/11 by Basildon Borough Council to confirm site clearance will commence during week commencing 19/09/11. Camp Constant was set up and has attracted approximately 30-50 attendees, but no significant tensions related; although activists are not particularly receptive to local NPT, the residents of the site are still very welcoming to local officers. Planned protest march 10/09/11 attracted 190 people, peaceful, no arrests. Various rumours continue to circulate regarding Dale Farm residents moving to locations in Essex and surrounding counties (some reports of preparatory work at locations from other forces). Tensions are raised slightly now on the site. Further information can be found on the Essex Police website http://www.essex.police.uk/news_features/dale_farm.aspx

Hertfordshire - Dale Farm Eviction (OP PROFESSOR) – clarification / update
Dale Farm is part of an Irish Traveller site in Crays Hill, Essex. It is the largest Irish Traveller site in the UK. The site has two parts, a legal site that has planning permission, and a site where the land is owned by Travellers but where planning permission has been refused. This land is classified as „green belt“ and has been developed by the Traveller community despite the lack of planning permission. On 15 March 2011 Basildon Council voted to clear 86 families from the unauthorised site at Dale Farm. Eviction notices were served on the families in July, giving them until the end of August to leave.

Experienced

MPS spoke to female last week. She stated that she has been told that only Irish Travellers are being evicted from Dale Farm. She stated that she has been told this
by someone that lives on Dale Farm. told her this wouldn't be the case but she was adamant only Irish Travellers are being evicted.

3. **NCTT Operation Element 22/09/2011**

3.5. **TRAVELLER AND ROMA** Enforcement action was commenced briefly at Dale Farm on 19/09/11 but halted prior to bailiffs entering the site as a result of a High Court Injunction. These matters should return to court on 23/09/11. Following the Court ruling the atmosphere on the site has improved noticeably.

**ESSEX** – A gate to keep out bailiffs at Dale Farm traveller site has been opened after a court order.

On 19/09/11 a High Court injunction was secured halting the commencement of the planned enforcement. Residents will be informed on a plot by plot basis as to what the enforcement entails. No further action can be taken by bailiffs and matters will be addressed further at court on 23/09/11.

5.9. **TRAVELLER & ROMA COMMUNITIES**

☐ **DALE FARM**: forces have detailed Experienced tensions in relation to the planned enforcement action at Dale Farm. Of note, Essex Police report that the wider community around Crays Hill have expressed concerns that the enforcement action was halted.

The overall national assessment in this Section is rated at **ABOVE NORMAL 5 ▲**

5.11. **EVIDENCED** The following returns detail Evidenced tensions within or towards Traveller and/or Roma communities:

☐ **DALE FARM**: Essex Police report that enforcement action was commenced briefly on 19/09/11 but halted prior to bailiffs entering the site – this was the result of a High Court Injunction effectively prohibiting further action until residents are informed on a plot by plot basis as to what enforcement will entail. This does not prohibit policing activity/entry to the site. It also requires the dismantling of obstructions and barriers at the site by Claimant/Residents Association. These matters will return to the Court not before 1130 hours on 23/09/11.

Camp Constant has between 50-100 activist attendees. There are no significant tensions related to this, although there are slight tensions emerging between residents and activists. Activists are currently quite receptive to local NPT staff and the good relationship between NPT and residents of the site continues. Following the Court ruling the atmosphere on the site has improved noticeably.

☐ **ILLEGAL ENCAMPMENTS**: Bedfordshire Police have reported that on the evening of 19/09/11 groups of Travellers began to converge on a location in Luton where they have set up an illegal encampment. The Luton Press Office have received a phone call from The Sun newspaper stating that some of these Travellers are from
Dale Farm but this is still unconfirmed. The Sun have subsequently given this matter front page exposure.

The overall national assessment in this Section is rated at **ABOVE NORMAL 5 ▲**

5.12. **POTENTIAL** The following events / issues may have an impact on tensions within or towards Jewish communities:

☐ **DALE FARM**: A hearing in relation to enforcement action at Dale Farm will take place on 23/09/11. Depending on the decisions made there, enforcement action may begin in the immediate future.

The overall national assessment in this Section is rated at **MODERATE 4 □**

**ESSEX** - Dale Farm: Barricade gate opened but no access for bailiffs

A main gate to keep out bailiffs at the UK’s largest illegal traveller site has been opened in line with a court order. Residents of Dale Farm in Essex won an injunction preventing the clearance of 51 unauthorised plots until Friday 23/09/11. BBC News 21/09/11

**Essex** - The wider community around Crays Hill have expressed concerns that the enforcement action at Dale Farm was halted and some tensions are evident.

**Bedfordshire** - On the evening of 19/09/11 groups of Travellers began to converge on to Stockwood Park, Luton where they have set up an illegal encampment with approximately 14 vehicles. The Luton Press Office have received a phone call from The Sun newspaper stating that some of these Travellers are from Dale Farm (this is still unconfirmed). The reporter purported to be at the encampment when the call was received at midday on 20/09/11. The Sun have subsequently given this matter front page exposure. The article states the Travellers present have indicated up to 40 more caravans could arrive at the location. A local resident is quoted as saying "We don't want Dale Farm's problems here. The police and council should have responded quicker to stop them getting on the land."

**Essex** - The local Crays Hill Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) have built up an excellent relationship with residents at Dale Farm over a long period of time which is enabling ongoing positive engagement. The team conducted foot patrol of the site on 19/09/11 and were welcomed by the residents although the atmosphere was slightly tense due to impending action by Basildon Borough Council. However, following the Court ruling yesterday granting an injunction to prevent further work by the Council until a further Court hearing on Friday the atmosphere on the site has improved noticeably. In compliance with the injunction the Council are contacting residents on a plot by plot basis to inform them of what work they propose to carry out. The injunction also orders the scaffolding/ barriers at the site to be taken down.

**Essex** – DALE FARM UPDATE: Action was commenced briefly on 19/09/11 but halted prior to Bailiffs entering the site as a result of a High Court Injunction. This effectively prohibits further action until residents are informed on a plot by plot basis as to what enforcement will entail [this does not prohibit policing activity/ entry to the
It also requires the procurement (by Claimant/Residents Association) of the dismantling of obstructions and barriers at the site. The Claimant is to inform Basildon Borough Council of the matters it does not consider are required in the relevant Enforcement Notices. These matters will return to the Court not before 11.30am on 23/09/11. Camp Constant has between 50-100 activist attendees, but no significant tensions related to this, although there are slight tensions emerging between residents and activists. Activists are currently quite receptive to local NPT staff and the good relationship between NPT and residents of the site continues.

**Surrey** - Reports of 18 caravans in Horley, Surrey have been received. Speculation regarding Travellers relocating from Dale Farm into Surrey continues, although at this time it is largely unsubstantiated.

4. **NCTT Operation Element 30/09/2011**

3.5. **TRAVELLER AND ROMA** Tensions are elevated in and around the Dale Farm area. Residents outside of Dale Farm are concerned over the lack of progress regarding the enforcement action, with potential for a protest and also withholding of council tax. There are also tensions between the Travelling community and activists at the site. Hampshire also report tensions between local Travellers and those who have left Dale Farm.

On 29/09/11, the High Court extended the injunction of the planned enforcement of affected Travellers until the 04/10/11. Additionally, the court is in receipt of three separate applications for the judicial review to stop the clearance of Dale Farm. Tensions have been reported from local residents, who have expressed their dissatisfaction with the lack of council action, voicing their intentions of protest marches. Some forces continue to report illegal encampments on their force areas, considered to emanate from Dale Farm, however, tensions remain stable as the legal process persists.

6.9. **TRAVELLER & ROMA COMMUNITIES**

6.10. **EXPERIENCED** Widespread tensions continue to be reported in relation to Dale Farm amongst the local residents surrounding the site, who express their discontent over the lack of council action and the potential for protests if the situation continues to be drawn out. There is also some reporting of tensions between activists and Travellers at the site.

The overall national assessment in this Section is rated at **ABOVE NORMAL 5**

6.11. **EVIDENCED** On 29/09/11, the High Court extended the injunction of the planned enforcement of affected Travellers until the 04/10/11. Activists are currently quite receptive to the local community team and the Traveller residents continue to have an excellent relationship with the team. On 29/07/11 two activists scaled Basildon Council offices and unfurled a banner calling for the local council leader to resign – both were arrested and charged for a public order offence. The wider community have expressed their concerns that the enforcement was halted and the local Parish council are organising a meeting with talk of a protest and withholding council tax.
In Bedfordshire, a group of Travellers attending a funeral where mistaken as setting up an illegal encampment and this was reported in the media as linked to Dale Farm. This demonstrates the continuing concerns over the potential displacement of travellers from Dale Farm.

6.12. **POTENTIAL** Hampshire report concerns over Travellers from Dale Farm who are looking to move to sites near Totton. Tensions are reported between local Travellers and Dale Farm Travellers, particularly after attempting to set up a site in Salisbury where a local Traveller horse was killed during the removal of a large earth bank.

The overall national assessment in this Section is rated at **MODERATE 4**

**BASILDON - Dale Farm: Travellers’ neighbours plan protest march** Villagers living near the UK’s largest illegal travellers' site are considering staging a protest march if a planned eviction is delayed again. *BBC News 25/09/11*

**Essex - Dale Farm update 28/09/11**. Currently the Court injunction remains in place prohibiting enforcement action with various issues being considered by the Court on 29/09/11 and 03/10/11. The unauthorised site currently has about 30 adult Travellers and Camp Constant has between 60-80 activists. There are no significant tensions related to this, although there have been slight tensions emerging between residents and activists. Activists are currently quite receptive to the local Community Team staff and the excellent relationship between the Community Team and Traveller residents of the site continues. Regular patrols are conducted on both the unauthorised and authorised sites. Tensions are relatively low at present and rubbish/bin collections have been performed by the Council.
On 27/09/11 two protestors who are supporters of Dale Farm attended Basildon Council offices and climbed onto the top of the revolving doors where they remained for about 30 minutes and stuck a banner to the window which said words to the effect of “Tony Ball to resign, love Dale Farm and save 18 million. The two supporters were arrested on suspicion of committing public order offences and were subsequently charged.

The wider community around Crays Hill have expressed concerns that the enforcement action was halted and tensions are increasing as the local Parish Council organise a public meeting with talk of their own protest and possibly withholding their Council Tax.

Further information can be found on the Essex Police website http://www.essex.police.uk/news_features/dale_farm.aspx

Hampshire - The Travellers from Dale Farm are looking to move into two known sites near Totton. There are between 40 – 50 caravans looking to set up a site before Christmas. The sites are a 7 acre site in Lordshill and the other is at Hawkers Close in Totton. The Irish Travellers asked the local Travellers to move their horses from a field they planned to use and when they refused a fight ensued. The locals won and the Irish Travellers moved on. The Irish Travellers continue to monitor the presence of the horses by visiting Hawkers Close. The Dale farm Travellers have already attempted to set up site in Salisbury and used a crane to remove a large earth bank, during which a local Travellers horse was killed. Tensions are high.

5. **NCTT Operation Element 14/10/2011**

3.5. **TRAVELLER AND ROMA** All three Dale Farm Traveller applications for judicial review have been refused. The ruling has stated that the Council’s actions were not “disproportionate” and removal was necessary to avoid “the criminal law and the planning system being brought into disrepute.” Tensions are slightly raised with tensions between residents and activists still apparent.

BASILDON - Residents of Dale Farm, the UK’s largest illegal travellers’ site, have lost their High Court battle against eviction but are now planning an appeal.

On 12/10/11 the High Court rejected the three separate judicial reviews and the permission of appeal by Dale Farm residents. Affected Travellers are expected to ask the Court of Appeal to hear their case directly, which is likely to be lodged on 14/10/11. The outcome will be known the same day. If granted, the process can then take anytime between one to several days. If the court refuses the appeal, Basildon Council can proceed with enforcement activity, which is likely to commence on 17/10/11.

6.9 **TRAVELLER & ROMA COMMUNITIES**

EXPERIENCED TVP continues to report that Travellers at Paices Hill, Newbury are voicing concerns that once Travellers are evicted from Dale Farm then they could be next. These concerns appear unfounded and tensions very slightly raised.
TVP have also highlighted residents’ concerns that displaced members of the traveller community from Dale Farm may look to move to the local community.

The overall national assessment in this Section is rated at **ABOVE NORMAL 5**

6.10 **EVIDENCED** The following events/issues may have an impact on community tensions:

**ESSEX - DALE FARM UPDATE – 13/10/2011**

All three applications for judicial review refused. The Judge ruled the Travellers had delayed too long in challenging Basildon Council’s decision to take direct action against them, that the Council’s actions were not “disproportionate” and their removal was necessary to avoid “the criminal law and the planning system being brought into serious disrepute”. The BBC website states that he refused the Travellers permission to appeal but those in court said they would ask to Court of Appeal to hear their case. The unauthorised site currently has about 30 adult Travellers and Camp Constant has between 40-50 activists, there are no significant tensions related to this, the slight tensions emerging between residents and activists appear to remain present. Activists are currently quite receptive to the local Community Team staff and the excellent relationship between the Community Team and Traveller residents of the site continues. Regular patrols are conducted on both the unauthorised and authorised sites. Tensions are slightly raised at present.

The overall national assessment in this Section is rated at **ABOVE NORMAL 5**

6.11 **POTENTIAL**

**ESSEX** - On 12/10/11 Judges ruled on three judicial reviews in the Royal Court of Justice and has upheld the eviction orders brought about by Basildon Council. The Judge stated that the Travellers should be removed from the site in order to avoid Justice and Planning systems „being brought into disrepute“. Eric Pickles, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Governments, has stated that „this scenario“ will not happen again in the future as he will be giving local councils stronger eviction powers. The eviction process is expected to start within days, however families still resident on the site have vowed to continue their legal fight.

The overall national assessment in this Section is rated at **MODERATE 4**

**Essex** – (Dale Farm update 13/10/11) All three applications for judicial review refused. The Judge ruled the Travellers had delayed too long in challenging Basildon Council’s decision to take direct action against them, that the Council’s actions were not “disproportionate” and their removal was necessary to avoid “the criminal law and the planning system being brought into serious disrepute”. The BBC website states that he refused the Travellers permission to appeal but those in court said they would ask to Court of Appeal to hear their case. The unauthorised site currently has about 30 adult Travellers and Camp Constant has between 40-50 activists, there are no significant tensions related to this, the slight tensions emerging between residents and activists appear to remain present. Activists are currently quite receptive to the local Community Team staff and the excellent relationship between
the Community Team and Traveller residents of the site continues. Regular patrols are conducted on both the unauthorised and authorised sites. Tensions are slightly raised at present.

**TVP** - Travellers at Paices Hill, Newbury are voicing concerns that once Travellers are evicted from Dale Farm, they could be next. These concerns appear unfounded but tensions are slightly raised.

6. **NCTT Operation Element 21/10/2011**

3.5. **TRAVELLER AND ROMA** Dale Farm update 20/10/11 – Essex report tensions on the site reduced following on from disorder experienced on the 19/10/11 when bailiffs entered the site. 34 arrests were made none of which are believed to be Travellers, all are activists from outside of Essex. A number of concerns have been received by Essex Constabulary which are being investigated by Essex Professional Standards Department.

Three Forces have reported incidents of illegal encampments on their areas, which are not thought to be connected to evicted families from Dale Farm; however as the evictions proceed we may see an increase in community tensions from other Forces in relation to perceived or actual incidents of families relocating.

**BASILDON** - At least two protesters have been Tasered by police as bailiffs start to evict travellers from the illegal Dale Farm site in Essex.

On 17/10/11, the High Court granted Basildon Council the right to commence with planned enforcement activity at the Traveller site. Police and Bailiffs began the operation on the morning of 19/10/11, and were met with much opposition from protesters, which resulted in a number of arrests.

Affected Travellers have mostly left the site, with some families moving onto the legal part of Dale Farm. Owing to the speculative nature of where displaced Travellers will disperse to, Forces are actively encouraged to engage with their local Gypsy & Traveller communities, reporting any significant tensions in the usual tension monitoring format.

6.9 **TRAVELLER & ROMA COMMUNITIES**

**EXPERIENCED** No returns of note received relating to experienced tensions regarding Traveller and Roma communities.

The overall national assessment in this Section is rated at **NORMAL 6 ▼**

**EVIDENCED** The following events/issues may have an impact on community tensions:

**ESSEX - DALE FARM UPDATE – 20/10/11** – On the 17/10/11 the High Court granted Basildon Council the right to commence with planned enforcement activity at the Traveller site. Police and Bailiffs began the operation on the morning of 19/10/11,
and were met with much opposition from protesters, which resulted in a number of arrests.

Tensions on the site reduced following the events of 19/10/11, however they may increase as clearance/ enforcement action proceeds. The scaffolding gantry will be removed which will be somewhat of a 'symbolic' moment and so far there have been 34 arrests, none of those arrested are believed to be Travellers, all are activists from outside of Essex. No complaints have been received by Essex Constabulary, however a number of concerns have been recorded and will be reviewed by Essex Professional Standards Department.

NCTT Comment: On 20/10/11, affected Travellers, together with supporters and protesters walked out of Dale Farm, making way for bailiffs to clear the site. Some of the affected Travellers have moved onto the legal part of Dale Farm, whilst others were seen to completely move away from the site. At this stage, it is unclear where many of the displaced Travellers will disperse to, as previously reported in Element, which has remained largely speculative. Currently, no formal complaints have been made to Essex Police, however, a number of concerns were raised and are now subject to an investigation by Essex Professional Standards Department.

The overall national assessment in this Section is rated at **ABOVE NORMAL 5 ►**

6.10 POTENTIAL In addition to the considerable coverage of the evictions at Dale Farm, Essex; “You & Yours”, the Radio 4 lunchtime programme, will be broadcasting a programme about Gypsy and Traveller site provision on the 24/10/11. NCTT Comment: There is the potential for a rise in community tensions to be seen in other Forces when evicted families from Daily Farm relocate.

The overall national assessment in this Section is rated at **MODERATE 4►**

**BASILDON - Protesters Tasered As Travellers Evicted** At least two protesters have been Tasered by police as bailiffs start to evict travellers from the illegal Dale Farm site in Essex. Police came under attack as they entered the rear of the site as activists and supporters of the travellers erected makeshift barricades. Sky News 19/10/11.

**Essex - Tensions on the site are reduced following the events of 19/10/11, however they may increase as clearance/ enforcement action proceeds today. The scaffolding gantry will be removed this morning which will be somewhat of a 'symbolic' moment and so far there have been 33 arrests, none of those arrested are believed to be Travellers, all are activists from outside of Essex.**

Some of the remaining Traveller residents are prepared to leave of their own accord now although there are a small number who still wish to remain.

Further information can be found on the Essex Police website [http://www.essex.police.uk/news_features/dale_farm.aspx](http://www.essex.police.uk/news_features/dale_farm.aspx)

7. **NCTT Operation Element 04/11/2011**
3.5. **TRAVELLER AND ROMA** Northumbria has experienced displaced travellers from the Dale Farm site.

**6.11 EVIDENCED** The following themes have emerged from Evidenced reporting: DALE FARM: Currently Basildon Borough Council and bailiffs are proceeding with the enforcement action virtually unhindered. There have been occasional tensions in respect of the removal of structures but these have been resolved quickly. It is likely works will be complete within the next 6-7 days.

TEMPORARY TRAVELLER SITES: The group of travellers reported by Northumbria stated that they had come from Dale Farm.

The overall national assessment in this Section is rated at **NORMAL 6 ►**

**6.12 POTENTIAL** The following events/issues may have an impact on community tensions:

DALE FARM: There has been some media reporting that Basildon Borough Council may try to seize land to recover legal costs. IAG advice is that this could inflame the situation and attract wide protest from Gypsy and Traveller communities.

Northumbria - On 30/10/11, a group of Travellers moved onto a site owned by the Great Park Consortium, Newcastle upon Tyne. On 31/10/11, Notice was served on the Travellers to leave by 02/11/11. During interview with local newspaper some of the Travellers had claimed they were from Dale Farm. All vehicles have now left.

Essex - Dale Farm Update 02/11/11: Currently Basildon Borough Council and Bailiffs are proceeding with the enforcement action virtually unhindered. There have been occasional tensions in respect of the removal of structures etc but these have been resolved quickly, the Community Team continue patrols on both sites daily. The situation is being monitored by head count daily and to ensure protestors do not re-enter posing as monitors. Currently there are about 8 legal observers present. Some of the displaced families have moved next door onto the authorised site. There have been no significant displacement (unauthorised encampment) issues reported to date. Some media reporting that BBC (Basildon Borough Council) may try to seize land to recover legal costs, IAG advise this could inflame the situation greatly and attract wider protest from Gypsy and Traveller communities. It is likely works will be complete within the next 6-7 days. Further information can be found on the Essex Police website [http://www.essex.police.uk/news_features/dale_farm.aspx](http://www.essex.police.uk/news_features/dale_farm.aspx)

8. **NCTT Operation Element 11/11/2011**

3.5. **TRAVELLER AND ROMA** Occasional tensions have been reported by Essex in relation to Dale Farm linked to funding, legal sites on the unauthorised site and a perceived insensitivity around the clearing of certain locations/items of sentimental value.

**6.11 EVIDENCED** The following theme has emerged from evidenced reporting:
DALE FARM: Currently Basildon Borough Council and Bailiffs are proceeding with the enforcement action with approximately a further week to completion. There have been occasional tensions in respect of the funding operation, the sitting of caravans on the plots on the unauthorised site that the court have stipulated will be allowed to remain and also where bailiffs have cleared locations on the unauthorised site of sentimental value.

The overall national assessment in this Section is rated at **NORMAL 6 ►**

**Bedfordshire** – DALE FARM: It is expected that Constant & Co (bailiffs) will finish the site clearance at the end of this week. There have been no further incidents/issues at Constant & Co’s Bedford offices.

**Essex** - Currently Basildon Borough Council and Bailiffs are proceeding with the enforcement action with approximately a further weeks work to completion. There have been occasional tensions in respect of the funding operation and also the sitting of caravans on the plots on the unauthorised site that the court have stipulated will be allowed to remain. The Community Team continue patrols on both sites daily. There were some tensions yesterday when the daughter of two Travellers who died in a fire on the site a few years ago attended to view their shrine only to find bailiffs had destroyed it. Currently there are still legal observers present and some film crews. Some of the displaced families have moved next door onto the authorised site. Further information can be found on the Essex Police website [http://www.essex.police.uk/news_features/dale_farm.aspx](http://www.essex.police.uk/news_features/dale_farm.aspx)

9. **NDEU Weekly Overview 19 – 25 September**

The Dale Farm eviction process continues in the courts. There continues to be some tensions at the site between activists and travelers. Police were called to the site over the weekend following the theft of a laptop owned by a traveler by an activist. Currently, it is believed that there are between 50 and 100 activists at Dale Farm. Some residents have also suggested that they withhold their council tax until the eviction has taken place.

10. **NDEU Weekly Overview 26 September – 2 October**

Legal arguments with regards to the Dale Farm eviction continue. A judge has ruled that the council can remove caravans from 49 out of the 54 plots on the site. It also states that the council can also remove the majority of concrete pitches. However, the ruling states that walls, fencing and gates should remain on site.

27/9 East, Essex, Basildon District Council -

Two film Industry employees climbed onto the porch roof of Basildon Council offices and unfurled a banner reading ‘Tony Ball resign’ with a price tag of 18 Million and "We Love Dale Farm" Both persons arrested and charged with Section 5 POA and bailed with conditions not to enter the area of Basildon Town centre. They are due to appear before South West Essex Magistrates Court 06/10.

11. **NDEU Weekly Overview 3 – 9 October**
Residents at Dale Farm will learn if they have won their High Court battle against eviction on 12/10. The travellers have made three separate applications for judicial review to stop the clearance of their homes. Lawyers for the travellers say the council's decision to remove 400 residents was "disproportionate" and should be reconsidered.

12. **NDEU Weekly Overview 10 – 16 October**

In addition XLW activists have attended the eviction at Dale farm which is currently taking place.

13. **NDEU Weekly Overview 17 – 23 October**

The eviction of Dale Farm commenced on 19th October, with demonstrators on site quickly retaliating by throwing missiles at the police led operation and setting fire to caravans. This resulted in a number of arrests, including those linked to the XLW and the site eventually being cleared. Community tensions at Dale Farm and the surrounding areas are believed to be returning to more normal levels since the site was cleared.