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Irish Travellers, now recognised as a distinct, nomadic ethnic group, have been part of Irish Society for centuries. We share a rich culture, language and tradition.

We are a traditionally nomadic people, and as part of this, we had traditional camps and stopping points.

A camp consisted of a piece of land with space for a wagon, tent or caravan and grazing land for horses. Camps were places of safety and self-sufficiency. Most of all, we felt welcome, knowing we would be allowed to stay, without imminent fear of being told to move-on.

Traveller camps were culturally rich. We lived in a community of extended family. Crackling open fires, aroma of outdoor cooking, horses grazing nearby – we shared a unique way of life that has faded with the disappearance of stopping sites.

The 1963 Commission on Itinerancy made a government policy aimed to "settle " Travellers and assimilate us into the general population.

Over the years, traditional campsites were closed and developed for other purposes such as shopping centres and roads.

Halting sites started to appear from the 1970s. These sites provided very basic facilities on designated areas of land. Travellers could keep their horses and maintain traditional economic activities like recycling scrap metal.

The 2002 Trespass Act made it illegal for Travellers to pull into any piece of ground outside of a halting site — which in turn made nomadism illegal.

Memory, history and place come together when older Travellers share their life stories. This map is a celebration of our proud nomadic past and rich culture. It was developed by Mags O'Sullivan of Cork Traveller Women's Network, after she interviewed older Travellers who lived on the campsites around the city.

Thanks to George and Sharon Gmelch, the Evening Echo Archive, and Fr Fenessy for the use of photographs.

Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí
Cork City Council

Plean Oidhreachta
Cork City Heritage Plan

December 2018

Missling on the Tobar

Travelling on the road: Traditional Traveller campsites in Cork City



Cork Travellers' Women's Network

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Traditional stopping points prior to halting sites

1. Black-Eye Bridge
2. Old Bog Road
3. Dublin Hill
4. Nash Boreen
5. Blackpool
6. Spring Lane
7. Tinkers Cross
8. Churchfield
9. Sun Valley Drive
10. Assumptiom Hill
11. The Glen
12. Holy Hill
13. Military Hill
14. Straight Road
15. Bishopstown
16. Marina
17. Little Island
18. Mahon Point (North)
19. Blackrock Road
20. Mahon Point (West)
21. Mahon Point (East)
22. Tramore Road
23. Black Ash Lane
24. Forge Hill

In the era of nomadism and camps, Irish Travellers found freedom and security across Cork City.





