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Lessons from the Campsite

This poster describes an ongoing research project which examines the campsite, in order to explore the particular qualities that make campsites work as temporary communities. The study draws on a visual methodology – using photographs and drawings - and focuses on spatial and social relationships. The study is used to develop a taxonomy of socio-spatial relationships which in turn might be used to draw lessons for the design of socially sustainable communities.

The research explores 4 key questions:

- Why is it that Children make friends with other children on campsites within days, whereas they often don’t know the children in their own street?
- How do people choose to arrange their dwellings when they are given a free choice?
- How do campsites function as communities whilst remaining adaptable and ‘loose-fit’?
- How does the shared space of the campsite work in practice?