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**CARAVAN INDUSTRY SHOWS SUPPORT FOR BRITISH TOURISM WEEK,  
AIMING FOR TWO MILLION MORE UK CARAVAN HOLIDAYS IN 2009**

At the start of British Tourism Week (BTW), the National Caravan Council (NCC), the trade body that represents the UK caravan industry, is urging MPs and local councils not to ignore caravanning as a holiday option. The NCC upholds that more than two million additional caravan holidays could be taken in the UK this year, if the rise in bookings to caravan parks continues.

British touring and holiday parks have been experiencing a boom, with bookings increasing by up to 50 per cent compared to last year. NCC Deputy Director General Alicia Dunne points out that caravanning's contribution to the great British holiday is often overlooked, even though 11.5 million caravanning trips were made in 2007. 'More than £1.75 billion is spent on caravan holidays each year (source: UKTS 2007) making it a significant contributor to the economy, especially in rural areas that are often heavily reliant upon tourism,' Dunne said.

'However, it remains difficult to get planning permission for new parks – or expansion of existing ones. Local councils do not always consider caravans and motorhomes in their tourism planning, e.g. by providing adequate parking for them.

'VisitBritain has described 2009 as a "defining moment", with 4.9 million Britons considering taking a holiday at home instead of overseas. The caravan industry has a vital part to play in the provision of good value UK holidays, where the holidaymaker can control costs.

'Investment in parks means there is a really strong – and varied - product on offer. Because of the weak pound we also have an opportunity to attract European caravanners to Britain in greater numbers than before. We are already seeing strong interest, particularly from Germany and the Netherlands.

***Ends***

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/2 caravan industry and BTW

**Editors' notes:**

- The caravan industry contributes over £5 billion to the UK economy (new/used retail sales plus holiday spend). Around 95 per cent of touring caravans on British roads are made in the UK.
- The industry employs in excess of 90,000 people, including part time and seasonal staff.
- More than £1.75 billion was spent on UK caravan holidays in 2007 – this is expected to rise considerably in 2009.
- It is a growing industry – caravan parks across the UK are experiencing increases in bookings, ranging between 8 and 50 per cent.
- Caravan holidays (in touring caravans and caravan holiday homes – rented and owned) accounted for nearly 11.5 million trips according to VisitBritain's 2007 United Kingdom Tourism Survey (UKTS).
- More than 53 million nights are spent in caravans each year (source: as above)
- In Britain currently there are
  - 500,000 touring caravans
  - approximately 300,000 caravan holiday homesand
  - 164,000 motorhomes

meaning nearly one million leisure accommodation vehicles are in use (source, NCC).

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Information on caravanning can be found at [www.nationalcaravan.co.uk](http://www.nationalcaravan.co.uk) and an online library of caravan images can be downloaded from <http://www.tourerinfo.co.uk/medi.php>