



Anti-Social Behaviour Deep Dive Report:

East Cambridgeshire

2024

Version 1.0

[V1.0]

The Policy and Insight Team (PIT) is a multi-disciplinary team that fulfils the research function for Cambridgeshire County Council. The team continues to take on a range of work commissioned by other public sector bodies within both Cambridgeshire and beyond.

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1. Executive Summary

This document was produced by the Policy and Insight Team, Cambridgeshire County Council after being commissioned by the East Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The 2023-2024 East Cambridgeshire Strategic Assessment highlighted a growing concern in anti-social behaviour (ASB) impacting the district. This deep dive report draws on analysis from national data, police recorded local data, and local data from the East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) to investigate the following 2 objectives:

- the breakdown of ASB incidents
- where ASB incidents are occurring

1.1. Breakdown of ASB incidents

Police recorded ASB are categorised according to standard incident recording rules (Home Office, 2011).

Nuisance - Nuisance is by far the largest ASB category with a proportion ranging from 74.6% in 2021 to 79.5% in 2022. Environmental is the next largest category with a range of 10.2% in 2022 to 14.3% in 2023. Personal is marginally the smallest category with a range of 8.5% in 2024 (as of June 2024) to 11.5% in 2021. Definitions of ASB categories can be found in the Glossary in Section 7.

Personal no risk and personal standard risk – Personal no risk and personal standard risk are the largest risk types within the personal ASB category. Personal no risk ranges from 31% in 2022 to 56% in 2024 (as of June 2024), and personal standard risk ranges from 33% in 2024 (as of June 2024) to 60% in 2022. Personal medium risk is the smallest risk type and ranges from 7% in 2023 to 15% in 2021.

ASB involving young people – Whilst this is not a separate type of incident, flags are added if a young person is suspected of being involved. Between January 2020 and June 2024, the proportion of youth-related keywords of all ASB incidents have ranged between 18.4% in 2021 and 25.8% in 2020. For 2024, the proportion of youth-related keywords of all ASB incidents is 25.0% as of June 2024.

1.2. Where ASB incidents are occurring

Efforts should be focused on the following 3 wards that have been consistently in the top 5 wards for the highest share of total ASB incidents since 2022:

- **Ely West** – Ely West has had the top 2 rank of highest share of ASB incidents since 2022. Its 2024 count as of June 2024 is already 85.3% of the 2023

count of ASB incidents. Ely West also ranks third for the share of criminal damage (11%) in East Cambridgeshire since January 2021. Youth related ASB in Ely West as of June 2024 is close to the 2023 counts of youth related ASB. In terms of context, Ely West makes up the majority of the Ely city centre.

- **Ely East** – Ely East has ranked in the top 3 of highest share of ASB incidents since 2022. Its 2024 count as of June 2024 is already 67.1% of the 2023 count of ASB incidents. Ely East also ranks second for the share of criminal damage (12%) in East Cambridgeshire since January 2021. Youth related ASB in Ely East as of June 2024 is exceeding 2023 counts of youth related ASB. Ely East ranks first in the share of ASB incidents (24%) recorded by ECDC from January to June 2024. In terms of economic context, Ely East has a claimant count rate of 3.0 that is above both East Cambridgeshire's rate of 2.0 and Cambridgeshire's rate of 2.3 as of June 2024.
- **Littleport** – Littleport has ranked in the top 4 of highest share of ASB incidents since 2022. Its 2024 count as of June 2024 is already 89.5% of the 2023 count of ASB incidents. Littleport also ranks first for the share of criminal damage (15%) in East Cambridgeshire since January 2021 and first for share of deliberate fires (29%) since January 2021. Youth related ASB in Littleport as of June 2024 is close to 2023 counts of youth related ASB. Littleport ranks second in the share of ASB incidents (15%) recorded by ECDC from January 2024 to June 2024. Littleport's claimant count rate is 2.5 and slightly above East Cambridgeshire (2.0) and Cambridgeshire (2.3).

The following 3 wards are areas of growing concern because they showed large percentage increases in ASB incidents between 2022 and 2023 and already have a 2024 count as of June 2024 that is more than 50% of their 2023 ASB incident count.

- **Fordham & Isleham**: +56.7% increase between 2022 to 2023; 2024 count as of June 2024 is already 91.5% of 2023 ASB incidence count. Fordham & Isleham also ranks fourth for share of deliberate fires (7%) since January 2021. Youth related ASB in Fordham & Isleham as of June 2024 is exceeding 2023 counts of youth related ASB.
- **Soham South**: +52.4% increase between 2022 to 2023; 2024 count as of June 2024 is already 60.1% of 2023 ASB incidence count. Soham South also ranks fifth for the share of criminal damage (8%) in East Cambridgeshire since January 2021
- **Stretham**: +61.3% increase between 2022 to 2023; 2024 count as of June 2024 is already 72.0% of 2023 ASB incidence count. Stretham also ranks fourth for the share of criminal damage (9%) in East Cambridgeshire since January 2021 and second for share of deliberate fires (12%) since January 2021. Youth related ASB in Stretham as of June 2024 is exceeding 2023 counts of youth related ASB.

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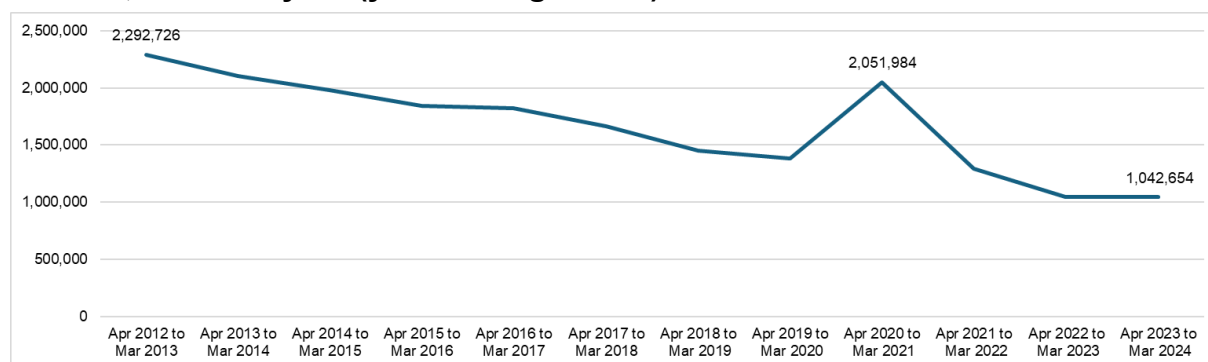
ECDC data shows that Burwell and Bottisham are 2 wards that are in the top 5 for ECDC data. These wards should be closely monitored. It is interesting to note the reporting to the district council does not follow police reported ASB. The hotspot maps of these 2 wards in Appendix A show that the location of ASB incidents differ and further investigation is recommended.

2. National Trend

This section provides national context for the local analysis that will follow in subsequent sections.

Figure 1 below shows that there has been a 55% decline in ASB incidents between March 2012 and March 2024 from approximately 2.3 million incidents to 1 million incidents with a one-off increase during April 2020-March 2021 during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Figure 1: Police recorded ASB incidents in England and Wales, 2012/13 – 2023/24, financial year (year ending March)



Source: (ONS, 24)

The most recent 2023-2024 East Cambridgeshire Strategic Assessment noted a national decrease in ASB incidents between 2022 and 2023 that follows this decade long decline (CCC Policy and Insight Team, 2024, p. 53).

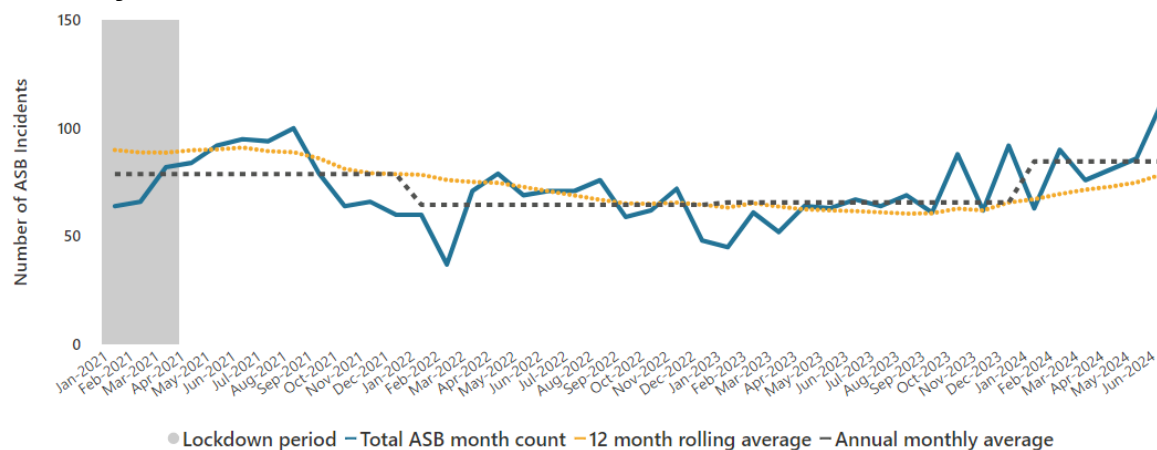
However, since between March 2023 and March 2024, ASB incidents have remained at approximately 1 million with no change (ONS, 2024). This national shift from a decade of decline to no change is an area of interest – especially as the subsequent local analysis of East Cambridgeshire in the next sections shows recent increases in ASB incidents.

3. Local Trends

Figure 2 from the 2023-2024 East Cambridgeshire Strategic Assessment showed a decreasing 12-month rolling average between January 2021 and October 2023 in

East Cambridgeshire. East Cambridgeshire has followed the ASB national trend of a downward trajectory and the one-off jump during the Covid-19 pandemic (CCC Policy and Insight Team, 2024, pp. 53-54).

Figure 2: Monthly police recorded ASB incidents in East Cambridgeshire - January 2021 to June 2024



This deep dive report adds the first 6 months of 2024, and October 2023 is an inflection point where the 12-month rolling average begins to increase. There are increasing spikes in October 2023, December 2023, February 2024, and May/June 2024. On first pass, these spikes loosely coincide with school holidays; however, these spikes patterns do not repeat in the earlier 2 years.

Table 1 provides district wide and county context with all districts and Cambridgeshire County experiencing declines between 2021 and 2023. However, only East Cambridgeshire and South Cambridge experience increases from 2022 to 2023 – the late October and December 2023 spikes may reflect the modest % increase in East Cambridgeshire.

Table 1: ASB incidents per year for Cambridgeshire districts and county – January 2021 to June 2024

District	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (up to 30 June 2024)	2024 forecast (x2)	% change 2021 to 2023	% change 2022 to 2023
Cambridge City	3245	2928	2334	2089	1115	2230	-29%	-10%
East Cambridgeshire	1067	946	775	788	508	1016	-17%	2%
Fenland	1923	1887	1369	1268	723	1446	-33%	-7%
Huntingdonshire	2477	2181	1873	1820	1016	2032	-17%	-3%
South Cambridgeshire	1638	1540	1181	1352	789	1578	-12%	14%
Cambridgeshire	10350	9482	7532	7317	4151	8302	-23%	-3%

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The uneven monthly movement in Figure 2 above shows that monthly ASB is not uniformly distributed, but a rough 2024 forecast that doubles the ASB incidents for the first 6 months shows increases between 2023 to 2024 for all districts and Cambridgeshire County.

ASB in East Cambridgeshire is a growing concern, and the subsequent sections breakdown the categories of ASB and geographical locations.

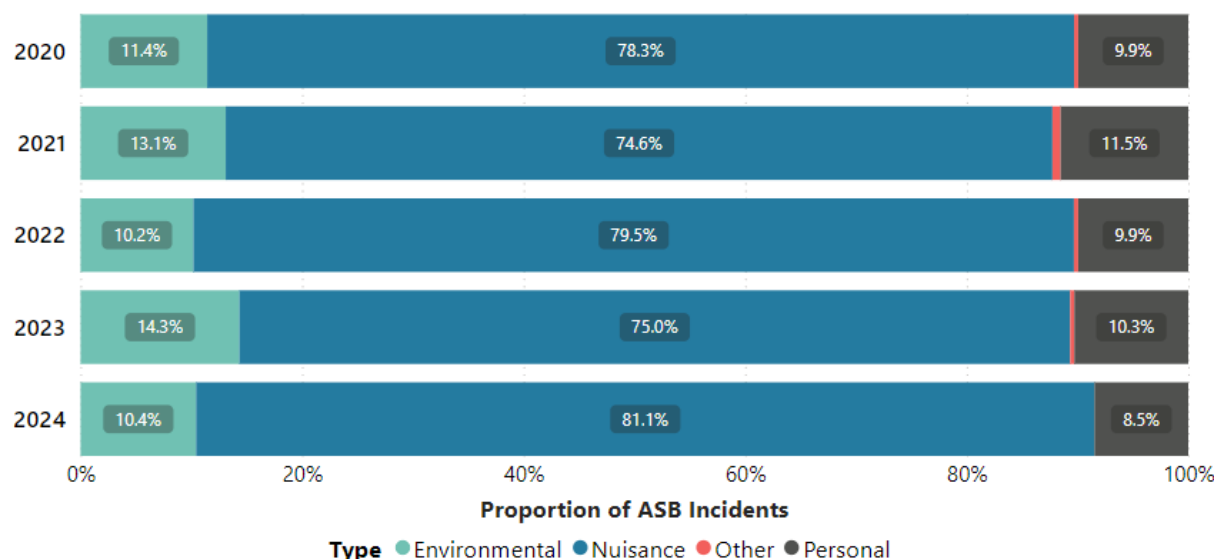
4. ASB categories

ASB is broken down into 3 categories: personal, nuisance, and environmental. Definitions of ASB categories can be found in the Glossary in Section 7. Figure 3 below shows that nuisance accounts for the majority of ASB recorded in East Cambridgeshire. However, there are no consistent increasing or decreasing trends between January 2020 and June 2024.

The 2023-2024 East Cambridgeshire Strategic Assessment showed that there was a notable increase in the proportion of environmental incidents between 2022 and 2023 (CCC Policy and Insight Team, 2024, p. 54). However, the first half of 2024 points to a reversion back to approximately 10% that is seen in 2022.

The takeaway is that nuisance is by far the largest ASB category followed by environmental and then personal, which is marginally below environmental.

Figure 3: Police recorded ASB by incident category in East Cambridgeshire - January 2020 – June 2024



Although the personal category is smallest by proportion, it can be broken down by risk. Figure 4 shows that the majority of personal ASB incidents in 2023 were

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categorised as either 'no risk' or 'standard risk' for a total of 93%. 7% of incidents were classified as 'medium risk'. The first half of 2024 looks to follow this similar trend where 'no risk' or 'standard risk' make up 88% and 'medium risk' make up 12%.

Figure 4: Personal ASB incidents categorised by risk – January 2021 to June 2024

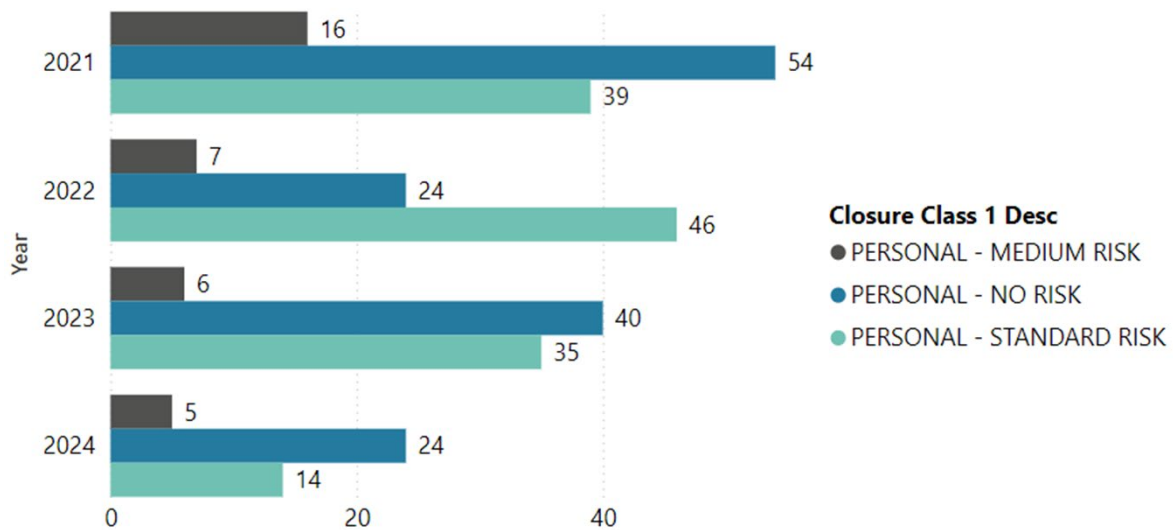
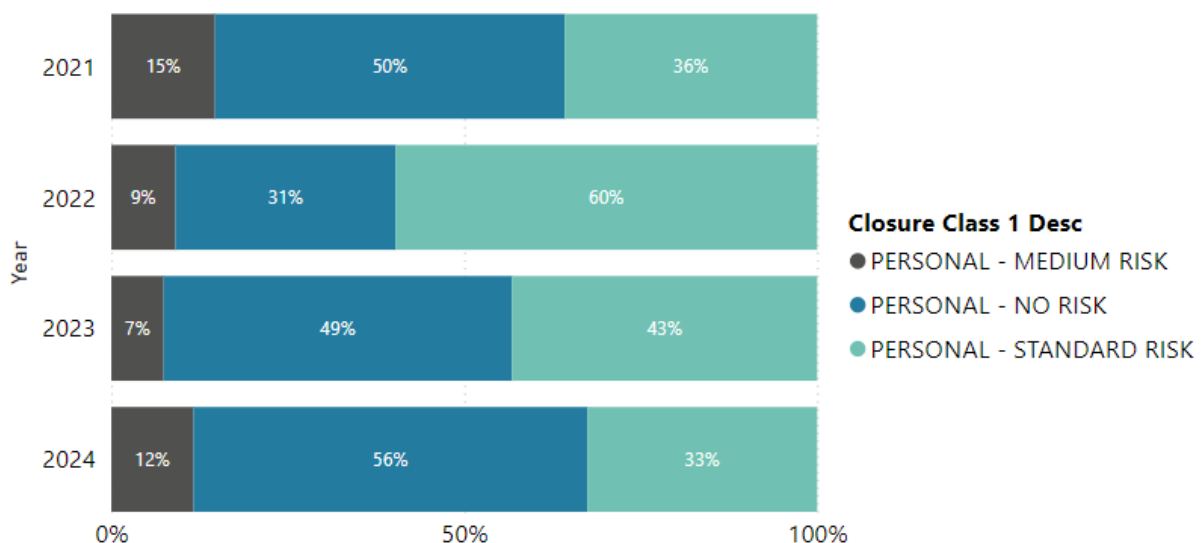


Figure 5 below shows the above data in Figure 4 as a proportion and shows that personal medium risk has risen to its highest proportion of 12% since 2021. However, it should be noted that the proportion of personal no risk incidents has also increased from 49% to 56% and personal standard risk has decreased from 43% to 33% so far as of June 2024.

Figure 5 – Proportion of Personal ASB incidents by risk – January 2021 to June 2024



5. Geographical analysis

The 2023-2024 East Cambridgeshire Strategic Assessment showed Ely West had the highest share of ASB incidents at 13.8% (CCC Policy and Insight Team, 2024, p. 55). Ely West continues to have the highest share of ASB incidents so far in 2024 at 18.3% and has the highest percentage point increase of 4.5%.

Table 2 below shows that Ely East and Littleport have consistently ranked in the top 5 wards for the highest share of ASB incidents since January 2022. Although Ely East saw the largest percentage point decrease of 6.3% between 2022 to 2023, it currently ranks third in the highest share of ASB incidents. Littleport had the second highest increase of 3.8 percentage points and ranks 2. It should be noted that the top 5 wards make up over 50% of all ASB incidents across all 3 years. Continued effort should be focused on these 3 particular wards: Ely West, Ely East, and Littleport. Hotspot maps for Ely and Littleport are provided in Appendix A. Notable locations include activity near the McDonalds and Cineworld in the Ely Leisure Village and a cark park off the High Street in Littleport.

Table 3: Police recorded ASB incidents in East Cambridgeshire wards – January 2022 to June 2024

Ward	2022 Count	2022 % of total	2022 Rank	2023 Count	2023 % of total	2023 Rank	Up to June 2024 Count	2024 % of total	2024 Rank	% 2024 count/ 2023 count	Percentage point change between 2023 and 2024
Bottisham	56	7.2%	5	56	7.1%	6	21	4.1%	9	37.5%	-3%
Burwell	42	5.4%	7	56	7.1%	6	18	3.5%	11	32.1%	-3.6%
Downham Villages	10	1.3%	14	22	2.8%	13	10	2%	13	45.5%	-0.8%
Ely East	135	17.4%	1	88	11.2%	2	59	11.6%	3	67.1%	0.4%
Ely North	27	3.5%	11	46	5.8%	11	21	4.1%	9	45.7%	-1.7%
Ely West	120	15.5%	2	109	13.8%	1	93	18.3%	1	85.3%	4.5%
Fordham & Isleham	30	3.9%	10	47	6.0%	10	43	8.5%	4	91.5%	2.5%
Haddenham	26	3.4%	12	24	3.0%	12	8	1.6%	14	33.3%	-1.4%
Littleport	113	14.6%	3	76	9.6%	4	68	13.4%	2	89.5%	3.8%
Soham North	50	6.5%	6	83	10.5%	3	35	6.9%	8	42.2%	-3.6%
Soham South	42	5.4%	7	64	8.1%	5	39	7.7%	6	60.9%	-0.4%
Stretham	31	4.0%	9	50	6.3%	8	36	7.1%	7	72.0%	0.8%
Sutton	69	8.9%	4	49	6.2%	9	40	7.9%	5	81.6%	1.7%
Woodditton	24	3.1%	13	18	2.3%	14	17	3.4%	12	94.4%	1.1%
Total	775	100%		788	100%		508	100%			

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In Table 3 above, several wards have worrying trends for 2024: Ely West, Fordham & Isleham, Littleport, Sutton, and Woodditton have all had more than 80% of the number of 2023 incidents in the first 6 months of 2024.

The 2023-2024 East Cambridgeshire Strategic Assessment showed that Soham North saw the largest percentage point increase of 4.0% between 2022 and 2023 from 6.5% to 10.5% (CCC Policy and Insight Team, 2024, p. 55). As of June 2024, it has seen the largest percentage point decrease of 3.6%.

Table 3 above focused on the share of total annual ASB incidents, and Figure 7 below shows the annual change in ASB incidents between 2021 to 2023 with the addition of 2024 counts up to June 2024. Figure 7 shows that although there are large visual decreases between 2021 and 2023 for Ely East, Ely West, Littleport, Sutton, and Woodditton, these wards are at more than 80% of their 2023 ASB incident count as of the halfway mark of June 2024 except for Ely East at 67.1%.

Figure 6 shows large percentage increases between 2022 and 2023 for Burwell (+33.3%), Downham Villages (+120.0%), Ely North (+70.4%), Fordham & Isleham (+56.7%), Soham North (+66.0%), Soham South (+52.4%), and Stretham (+61.3%). However, as of June 2024, the wards with a 2024 count that is more than 50% of their 2023 ASB incident count are Fordham & Isleham (91.5%), Soham South (60.1%), and Stretham (72.0%). These are areas of growing concern, and hotspot maps are provided for Fordham, Isleham, Soham, and Stretham in Appendix A.

Figure 6: Police recorded ASB in East Cambridgeshire annually by ward January 2021 to June 2024

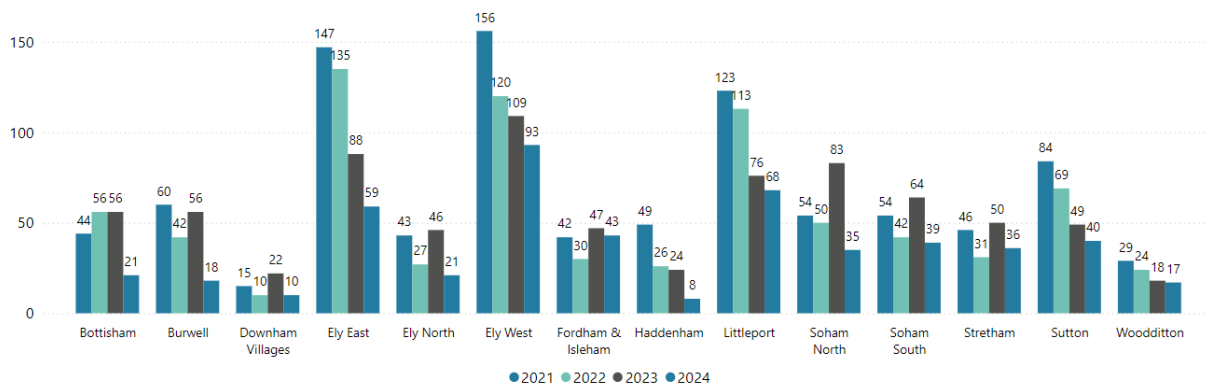


Figure 7 below shows the thematic map overleaf of the 2023 count of ASB incidents on the left and ASB incidents between January to June 2024 on the right at the lower-level geography of LSOA. The 2023 map on the left illustrates that the LSOAs with the highest levels of ASB (over 20 incidents) are primarily located within the Sutton, Soham, and Ely area. The 2024 map on the right is similar with the addition of Littleport and Isleham.

Figure 7: Police recorded ASB in East Cambridgeshire – January to December 2023 (left) and January to June 2024 (right)

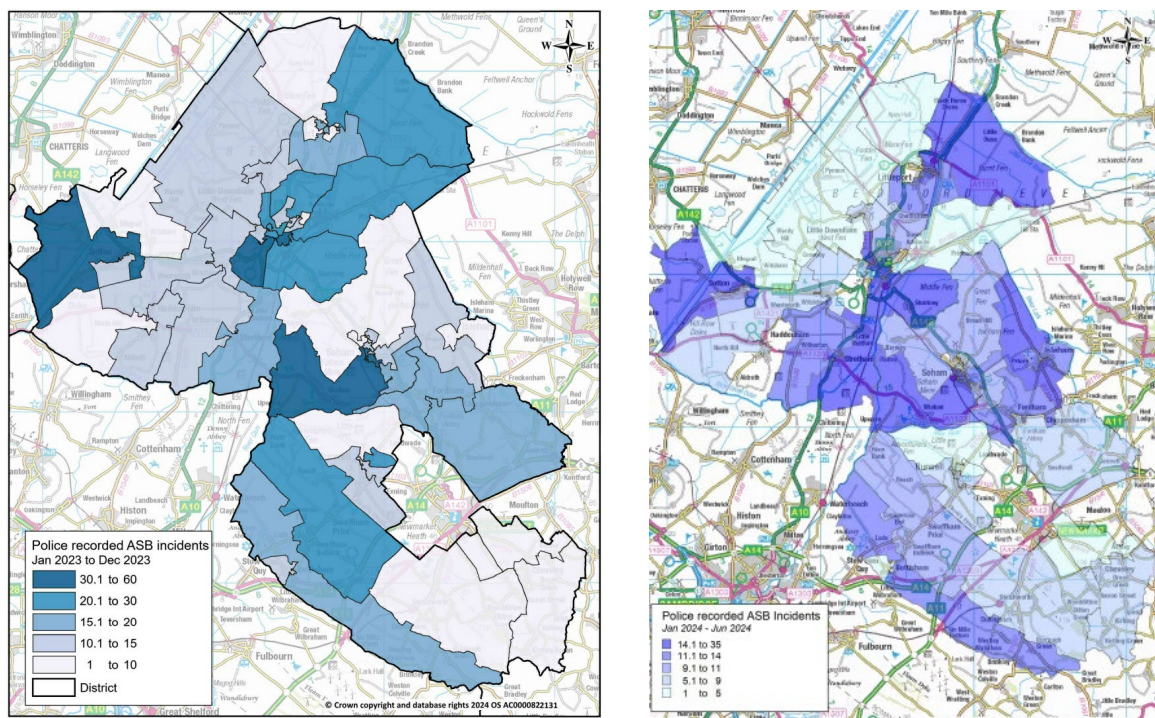


Table 4 analyses the total ASB incidents, deliberate fires, and criminal damage between January 2021 and June 2024 and confirms that efforts should be focused on Ely West, Ely East, and Littleport. These wards have a top 3 rank for total ASB incidents and criminal damage. Littleport also has the highest rank of deliberate fires at 29%.

Another notable area is Stretham, which has the second most deliberate fires (12%) and the fourth most criminal damage (9%) although it has the ninth most total ASB incidents (5%).

Table 4: ASB incidents, Deliberate fires, and Criminal damage in East Cambridgeshire wards from January 2021 to June 2024

Ward	ASB incidents	% of ASB incidents	ASB Rank	Deliberate fires	% of Deliberate fires	Fire rank	Criminal damage	% of Criminal damage	Criminal damage rank
Bottisham	176	6%	7	9	8%	3	79	6%	9
Burwell	176	6%	8	4	4%	12	116	8%	6
Downham Villages	57	2%	14	5	4%	11	26	2%	14
Ely East	429	14%	2	5	4%	9	167	12%	2
Ely North	137	5%	11	5	4%	10	47	3%	13
Ely West	478	16%	1	5	4%	8	155	11%	3
Fordham & Isleham	162	5%	10	8	7%	4	72	5%	10
Haddenham	107	4%	12	4	4%	13	54	4%	12
Littleport	380	13%	3	33	29%	1	219	15%	1

Ward	ASB incidents	% of ASB incidents	ASB Rank	Deliberate fires	% of Deliberate fires	Fire rank	Criminal damage	% of Criminal damage	Criminal damage rank
Soham North	222	7%	5	1	1%	14	90	6%	7
Soham South	199	7%	6	7	6%	6	119	8%	5
Stretham	163	5%	9	14	12%	2	131	9%	4
Sutton	242	8%	4	7	6%	5	84	6%	8
Woodditton	89	3%	13	7	6%	7	69	5%	11
Total	3017		7	114			1428		

In addition to police recorded ASB data, East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) provided data on ASB incidents. Table 5 shows that Burwell and Bottisham are 2 wards that are in the top 5 for ECDC data. These wards should be closely monitored.

Table 5: Comparison of police recorded ASB incidents and ECDC ASB incidents in East Cambridgeshire wards – January to June 2024

Ward	2024 Count	2024 Percentage	Rank	ECDC data (2024 only)	% of ECDC data	Rank
Bottisham	21	4.1%	9	21	9%	4
Burwell	18	3.5%	11	29	13%	3
Downham Villages	10	2%	13	4	2%	13
Ely East	59	11.6%	3	54	24%	1
Ely North	21	4.1%	9	9	4%	9
Ely West	93	18.3%	1	18	8%	5
Fordham & Isleham	43	8.5%	4	7	3%	10
Haddenham	8	1.6%	14	1	0%	14
Littleport	68	13.4%	2	34	15%	2
Soham North	35	6.9%	8	13	6%	6
Soham South	39	7.7%	6	11	5%	7
Stretham	36	7.1%	7	7	3%	10
Sutton	40	7.9%	5	10	4%	8
Woodditton	17	3.4%	12	5	2%	12
Total	508	100%		223	100%	

6. ASB involving young people

Youth-related ASB has been analysed by applying a keyword search to the incident description field to identify incidents that are likely to be youth-related. It should be noted that this is not a perfect measure, and it may include some incidents where young people were present or victims but the incident itself was not youth related. Despite this limitation, it represents the best available indicator of police recorded youth related ASB.

The 2023-2024 East Cambridgeshire Strategic Assessment showed in Figure 8 that East Cambridgeshire had a similar youth related keyword proportion of 21.2% of all ASB incidents compared to greater Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, which had a 23.2% proportion. (CCC Policy and Insight Team, 2024, p. 58).

Figure 8: Proportion of police recorded ASB incidents which contain a youth related keyword for East Cambridgeshire and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in 2023.

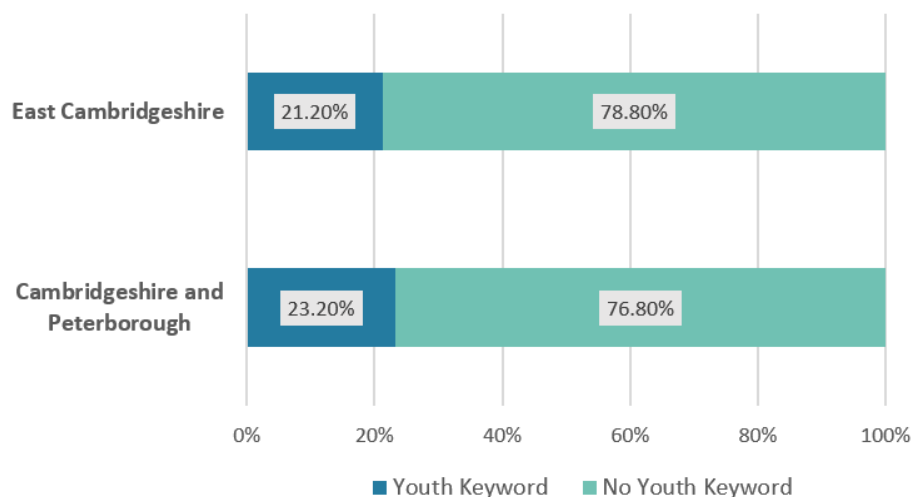


Figure 9 shows that the proportion of youth-related keywords of all ASB incidents has been relatively stable over the last six years and has accounted for between a fifth and a quarter of all ASB. The exception is 2021 when it dropped to 18% - this coincides with the year a range of measures were introduced to combat Covid-19. For the most recent year (which is actually only six months of data) it is the top of the range at 25%.

Figure 9: Proportion of police recorded ASB incidents which contain a youth related keyword for East Cambridgeshire – January 2019 to June 2024

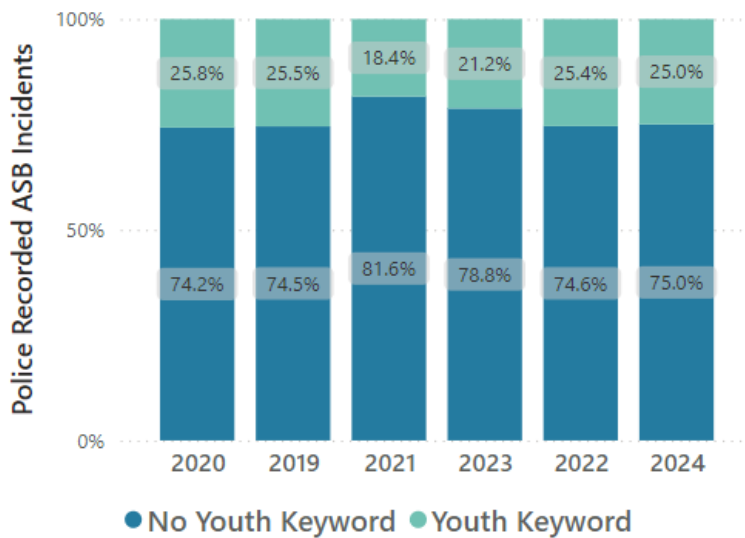


Figure 10 breaks down the above annual figures into monthly granularity. Compared to monthly overall ASB incidents as seen in Figure 2 in Section 2, the 12-month rolling average youth ASB incidents does not show a pronounced increase after October 2023 and is relatively flat. The annual monthly average youth ASB shows an increase from December 2023.

Figure 10: Monthly police recorded youth ASB incidents in East Cambridgeshire – January 2021 to June 2024

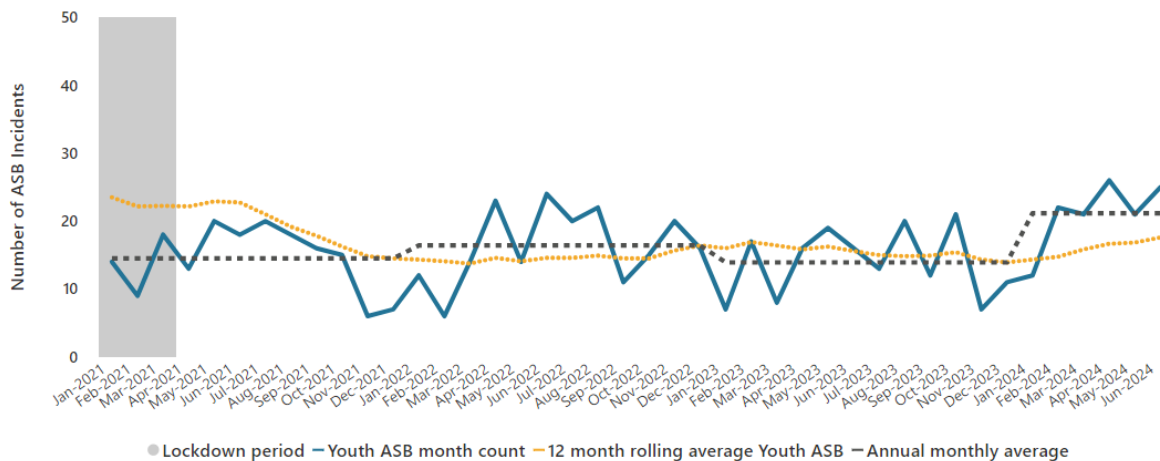
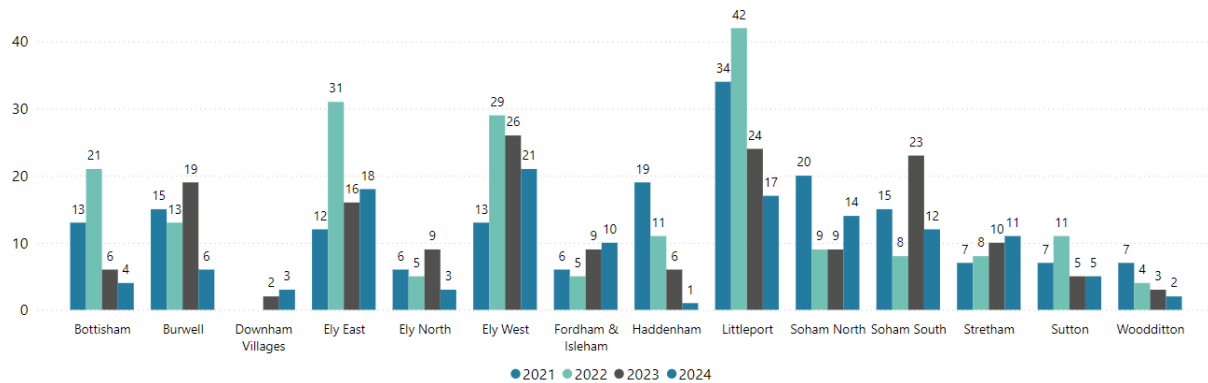


Figure 2 showed increasing spikes in October 2023, December 2023, February 2024, and May/June 2024. In Figure 10, the increasing spikes occur in an unusual, shifted pattern in September 2023, November 2023, and March 2024.

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Figure 11 shows that as of June 2024, the follow wards are close to or have exceeded the 2023 youth ASB incidents: Ely East, East West, Fordham & Isleham, Littleport, Soham North, Stretham, Sutton, and Woodditton. Except for Soham North, these wards align with the geographical analysis in Section 5 where 2024 counts as of June 2024 are over 65% of the 2023 ASB overall count.

Figure 11: Police recorded youth ASB incidents in East Cambridgeshire annually by ward - January 2021 to June 2024



7. Glossary

Table 6: Glossary

Term	Definition
Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)	<p>“Antisocial behaviour is defined as 'behaviour by a person which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to persons not of the same household as the person' (Antisocial Behaviour Act 2003 and Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011).”</p> <p>(Cambridgeshire Constabulary)</p>
ASB categories: personal, nuisance and environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal antisocial behaviour is when a person targets a specific individual or group. • Nuisance antisocial behaviour is when a person causes trouble, annoyance or suffering to a community. • Environmental antisocial behaviour is when a person’s actions affect the wider environment, such as public spaces or buildings. <p>(Cambridgeshire Constabulary)</p>

Appendix A: Hotspot maps

Ely

Ely West

The northwest spot near the B1411 marker is near the Ely Leisure Village – there is a McDonalds and Cineworld in that area. The large west spot is residential and near a small play area. The southern spot is the train station.

Ely East

The spot next to B1382 marker is a large playground.

Figure 12: Hotspot map of police recorded ASB incidents in Ely



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Littleport

The darkest red spot is a car park just off High Street.

Figure 13: Hotspot map of police recorded ASB incidents in Littleport



Fordham

The dark red northeast spot has a few residential houses, and there is a bus stop close by. The southeast spot near Trinity Close is near Trinity Hall Bed & Breakfast. The spot on the west on the junction of Sharman's Road and Market Street is the Fresh & Proper supermarket. The northwest spot on the junction of Carter Street and Fordham Moor Road is residential.

Figure 14: Hotspot map of police recorded ASB incidents in Fordham



Isleham

The central spot is a Co-op store. The southern spots are residential and back onto fields.

Figure 15: Hotspot map of police recorded ASB incidents in Isleham



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Soham

Soham North

The darkest red spot is close to Soham train station and the station car park.

Soham South

The southeast red spot on the junction of Fordham Road and Staples Lane does not have any notable locations other than a bus stop.

Figure 16: Hotspot map of police recorded ASB incidents in Soham

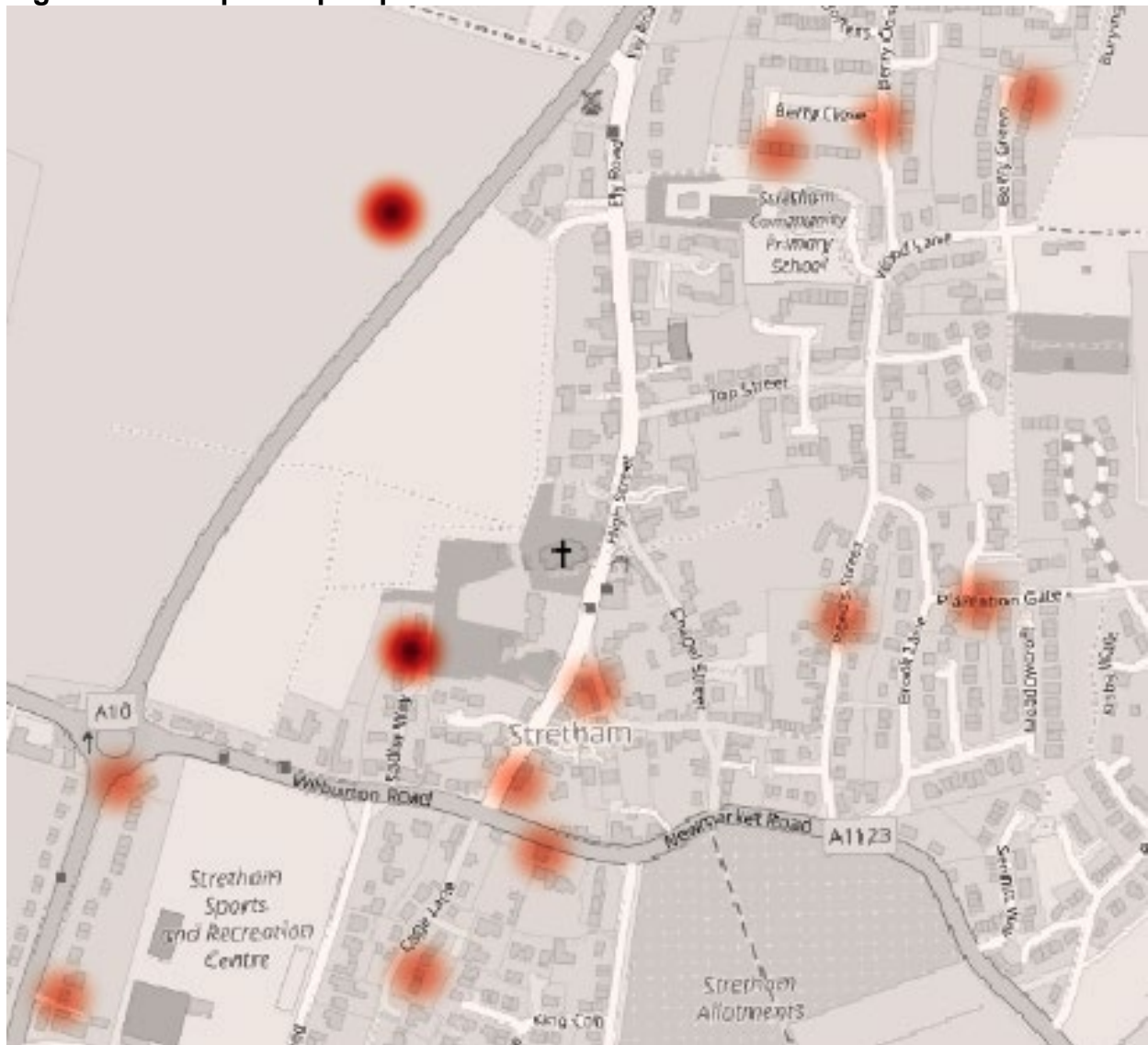


Stretham

The dark central red spot off Sadler's Way is residential. The dark north red spot off Cambridge Road are fields.

The south spots at the junction of the High Street and Newmarket Road are near a Youth Centre (on the High Street) and a Chinese Takeaway (on Newmarket Road).

Figure 17: Hotspot map of police recorded ASB incidents in Stretham

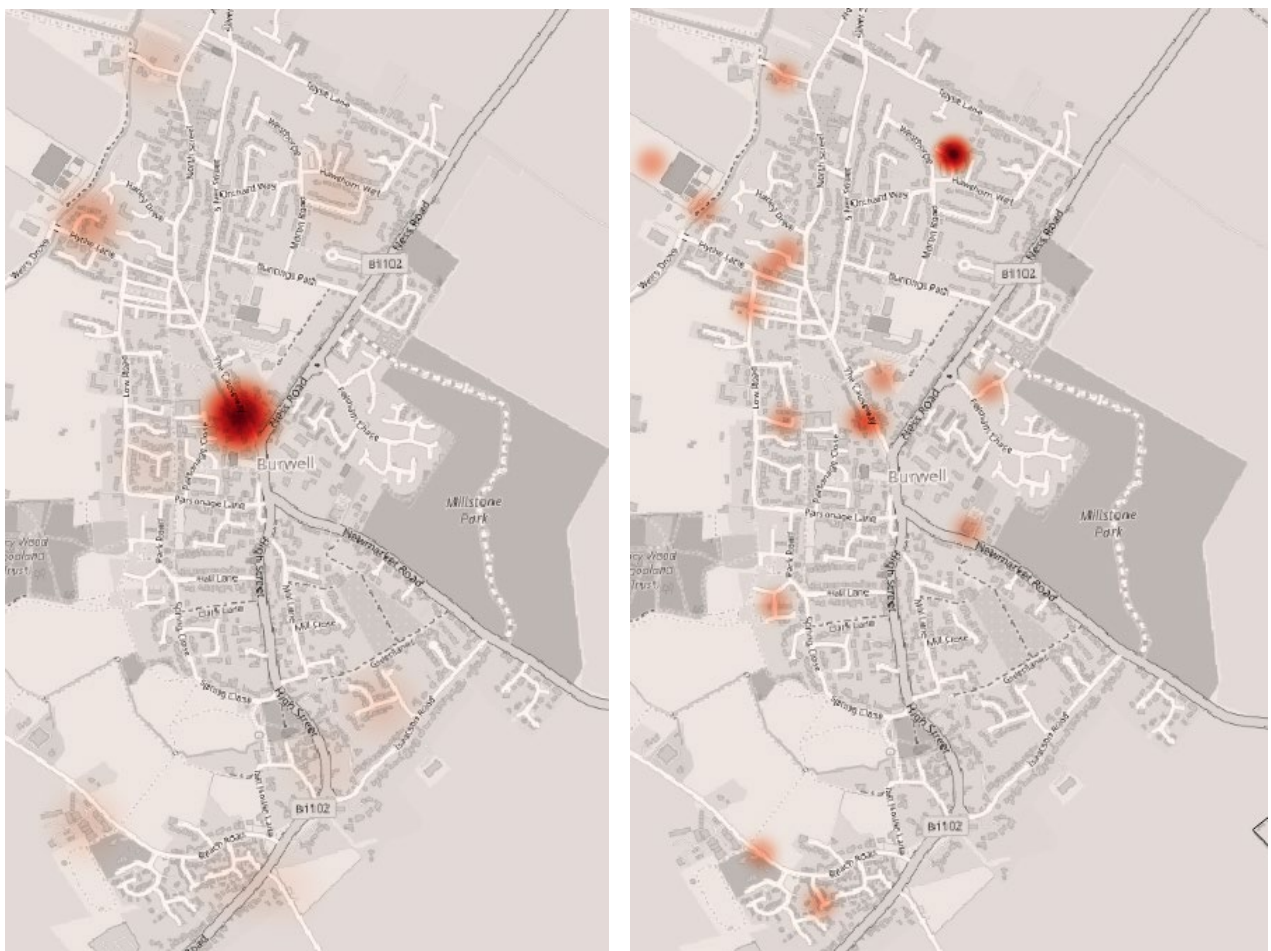


Burwell

The map on the left shows a dark red spot on the junction of The Causeway and Ness Road. The only notable location there is The Burwell Ex-Service & Social Club.

The map on the right shows a lighter red spot in the same location near the Social Club. The darkest red spot in the north is residential and close to the Westhorpe Play Park.

Figure 18: Hotspot maps of ECDC ASB incident data (left) and police recorded ASB incidents (right) in Burwell



Bottisham

The ECDC map on the left is concentrated on Jenyns Close. The map on the right shows a dark spot on the junction of Newmarket Road and Wilbraham Road – this is near the Bottisham Airfield Museum. The map on the right shows a lighter spot on Jenyns Close, and the other spots are residential.

Figure 19: Hotspot maps of ECDC ASB incident data (left) and police recorded ASB incidents (right) in Bottisham



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